

JULY 2023

TAP NEWSLETTER

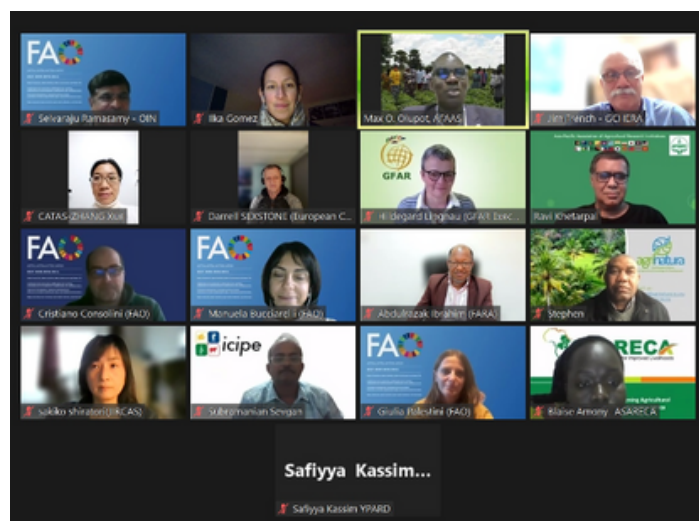
TAP celebrated its 9th TAP Partners Assembly

The TAP Partners Assembly took place on 26 January 2023. It counted with the participation of 18 partner organizations. During the event two new Partners were welcome to TAP:

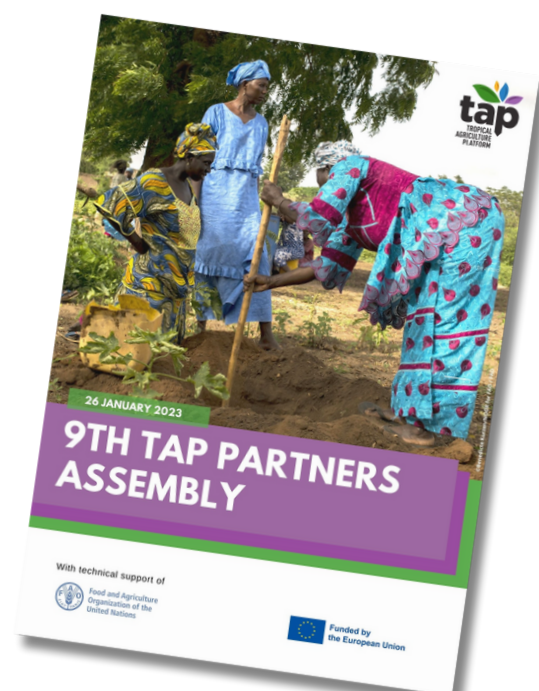
1. Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa ([ASARECA](#))
2. The International Association of students in Agricultural and related Sciences ([IAAS](#)),

During the event; TAP achievements in 2022 as well as partners updates on projects and programmes were shared. Event participants agreed to continue supporting TAP Action Plan 2022-2025 and its mandate in increasing the coherence and effectiveness of capacity development interventions for agricultural innovation systems, so they can lead to sustainable change and impact at scale.

The event also served to celebrate the 10th anniversary of TAP, after its launch in 2012 during the G20-led Meeting of Agriculture Chief Scientists (MACS) in Mexico.



Group photo during the 9th TAP Partners Assembly ©FAO



TAP Participation in the G20 Agriculture Working Group in India

TAP was represented by the Dr Selvaraju Ramasamy (TAP Secretariat) during the first Agriculture Deputies Meeting under the G20 Agriculture Working Group (AWG), held in Indore (India) from 13-15 February 2023. A presentation on the work carried out by the TAP during 2021 and 2022 and the themes of the TAP action plan for 2022-2025 was delivered. The TAP Secretariat provided the details of the monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework developed and used as part of the EU-funded TAP-AIS project. It was also informed that the same tools and methodologies are available for the members and partners of the platform.

The Chair of the stock-taking side event session suggested to all the leads of the G20 initiatives to continue the work in line with the goals of their initiatives, and emphasized the need to have greater convergence and collaboration among the G20 member countries and supported initiatives on agricultural research and development aspects. The chair assured to carry forward the discussions on G20 agricultural issues in the upcoming AWG meetings.

TAP present at the 8th Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs

A virtual side event on “Enabling Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) for developing STI roadmaps for SDGs in the context of post COVID-19” was organized virtually on 03 May 2023 as part of a series of side events of the 8th Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum). The European Commission, FAO, regional partners (AFAAS, APAARI, EFARD, APAARI, RELASER), and national partners from the TAP-AIS project contributed to this event, which was attended for more than 150 participants.

Key issues discussed during the event included:

- Current challenges (i.e., climate change, covid-19 and increasing food prices) and its effects on food security in low- and middle-income countries.
- The role of Science, Technology and Innovation in achieving food security and nutrition in a sustainable way
- The main priorities from regional and national perspective to unlock the potential of agricultural innovation to achieve the SDGs.
- The importance of capacity development and collaboration among the AIS actors including agricultural research, bridging institutions, business enterprises and their enabling environment for the co-creation of knowledge, and scaling-up innovations, so they can reach farmers
- Lack of proper indicators to measure the impact of innovation.



The recordings of the side event are available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fu8Ds04wqIk>

TAP participates at the UNFSS+2 Stocktaking Moment

During the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS)+2 Stocktaking Moment, the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) made a significant presence at the FAO booth. The event, that took place in Rome, Italy, from 24-26 July 2023, was attended by over 2,000 delegates and graced by 20 Heads of States, served as a pivotal platform to address the world's pressing food system challenges.

TAP took centre stage as we presented and displayed the groundbreaking materials and informative videos related to TAP and TAP-AIS project.

The presence of TAP at the FAO booth during this prestigious event garnered attention from policymakers, experts, and leaders in the agricultural sector.

The interactive exhibits provided an opportunity for attendees to learn about TAP's initiatives (past and present), projects, and the potential impact on global food security. AP's involvement in the UNFSS+2 stocktaking moment marks a significant step in advancing sustainable agricultural practices and underscores the importance of collaboration in tackling the challenges faced by the world's food systems.



Cristiano Consolini and Giulia Palestini (FAO) representing TAP at the FAO booth during the UNFSS+2 Stocktaking moment. ©FAO

Short interviews with TAP regional partners

Listen on the [TAP YouTube Channel](#) a series of interviews conducted to TAP regional partners about the learnings gained during their participation in the training of trainers (ToT) organized by the TAP regional partners in the context of the TAP-AIS project.

ASARECA and YPARD learnings from Trainer of Trainers (ToT):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sdw4hLJq8ok>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8gVMq3Gx_0

Stay tuned for more videos coming soon!



UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

AFAAS

■ AFAAS unveils innovative pluralistic approaches in agricultural advisory services

The Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (UFAAS) in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) launched the National Agricultural Extension week 2023 on 31 March 2023. Under the theme “Unveiling innovative pluralistic AEAS approaches: Actors’ resilience and competitiveness for food security and commercialized agriculture”, the launch took place at Kabira Country club in Bukoto, Kampala. It was supported with funding from USAID Feed the Future Institutional Strengthening and Systems Activity, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Uganda, and other partners.

Subsequently, on 23 to 26 May 2023, Uganda held its first [National Agricultural Extension week](#) in Kampala. The event aimed to highlight innovative and collaborative approaches to extension and advisory services in Uganda. Over 400 participants gathered both in-person and online for discussion and exchange on the key challenges and solutions for the sector.



Participants that attended the launch of the Uganda agricultural extension week ©AFAAS

■ Reviving FAAS Rwanda: A Path Towards Strengthening Agricultural Extension for Sustainable Development

In the pursuit of sustainable development and food security, agricultural extension services play a pivotal role in bridging the knowledge gap between researchers, farmers, and other stakeholders. Recognizing the significance of effective agricultural extension systems, the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) and the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) joined forces on the 10th-11th of May 2023 to reactivate the Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services, Rwanda (FAAS-Rwanda).

This collaborative effort aims to revitalize and strengthen the agricultural extension system in Rwanda, empowering farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Read more here: <https://www.afaas-africa.org/reviving-faas-rwanda-a-path-towards-strengthening-agricultural-extension-for-sustainable-development/>



AFAAS Director of Programmes, Mr Max Olupot (centre) with FAAS-Rwanda team: Director General Dr Telesphore Ndabamenye (Second left) and the Deputy Director General Dr. Florence Umamahoro (Second right), Rwanda Agriculture Board. ©AFAAS

APAARI

Asia-Pacific working group on transforming higher education conducts its first meeting

On 9 May 2023, the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS), conducted the first working group (WG) meeting on transforming higher education in Asia-Pacific.

The first out of three WG meetings aimed to explore and elaborate on opportunities to promote institutional innovation through integration of functional capacity development into the higher education system. Such institutional innovation is crucial to build impact- and practice-oriented agricultural research, education, knowledge and strong education institutions based on the principles of multi-actor collaboration, co-innovation and co-research.

The findings of the joint rapid appraisal (JRA), as well as the lessons learned from the Transforming Higher Education Project of the Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences (GCHERA), and ongoing Collective Action on Transformational Learning led by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) framed the WG discussions.

The issues discussed during the meeting included:

- The improvement of educational quality through strengthening capacities for innovation at the individual, community, organizational, and enabling environment levels.
- The types of engagement, collaboration and partnerships needed to facilitate a transformation of higher education in Asia-Pacific through innovation that can effectively contribute to the sustainable transformation of agri-food systems.
- The enabling environment measures that could facilitate the two above-mentioned points to be effectively brought into practice to transform agricultural universities.

The next WG will focus on collaboration and partnerships. Led by APAARI, the group includes universities from West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, as well as international agricultural research institutions, sub-regional and global networks.

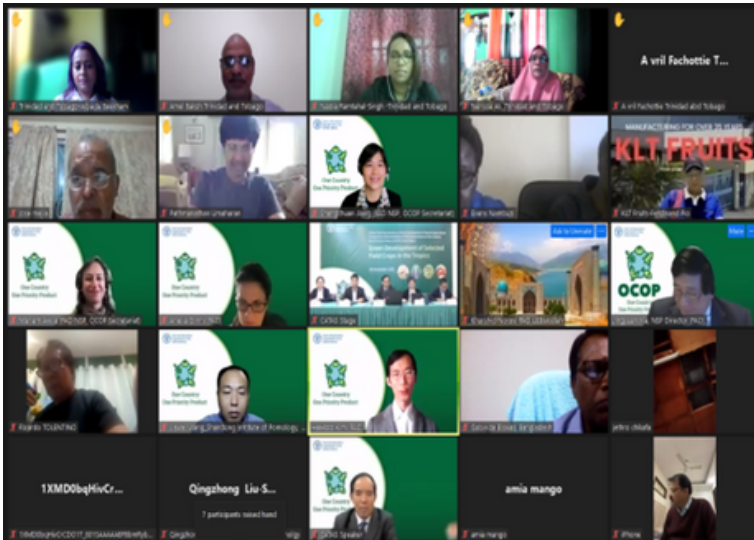
CATAS

CATAS online training sessions on Green Development of special agricultural products for implementation

The Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) and FAO jointly organized From November 28 to 30 2022 the online training sessions on green development of special agricultural products for Implementation of FAO Global Action on One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) in the Tropics., aiming to share China's experience with potential partners of the action and improve their technical level of green development of tropical agricultural products. Xia Jingyuan, Director of the Plant Production and Protection Department of FAO, and Liu Guodao, Vice President of CATAS attended the opening ceremony.

Twelve experts from CATAS, CAAS and the Shandong Fruit Research Institute made theme reports on tropical crops such as cassava, sugar cane, pepper, sweet cherry, banana, date palm, jackfruit, mango, coffee, cocoa, coconut, tea, among others. More than 200 agricultural government officials, experts from scientific research institutions and private sector representatives from all over the world attended the training.





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

Online Group Photo (©CATAS)

Seminar on the Development of Cassava Value Chain

On 13 December 2022, CATAS and the World Food Program (WFP) Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation and the WFP Region Center of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition in West Africa successfully held a seminar on cassava value chain development. This seminar aimed to share the experiences and good practices of developing countries in the development of cassava value chain. Representatives from institutions and enterprises such as CATAS, the Alliance of Biodiversity International and CIAT, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, the Myanmar Crop Biotechnology Center, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Côte d'Ivoire, and Guangxi Nongken Mingyang Biochemical Co., Ltd. delivered keynote speeches respectively on the development of cassava industry chain in China, Asia and Africa, and focused on cassava processing equipment, post-harvest loss reduction, cassava by-products and other aspects, and shared their experience and enlightenment in the practical application of cassava industry. At the opening ceremony, CATAS and WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation held a technical video handover ceremony for the South-South Cooperation Pilot Project for Congo (Brazzaville). The technical video was produced by CATAS, covering 10 fields of tropical crops such as cassava and banana.



Seminar on Cassava Value Chain Development ©CATAS

CATAS and the African Academy of Sciences Signed a MOU

To expand new partnership of cooperation in tropical agricultural science and technology for improving productivity of tropical agriculture, food security and livelihoods of rural people, CATAS and the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cooperation. The two sides would focus on cooperation in the selection and promotion of crop varieties, environmental protection, prevention and control of plant diseases, insect pests and weeds, establishment and promotion of sustainable farming systems, animal husbandry development, agricultural product processing technology, agricultural machinery R&D and promotion, agricultural economy, human resources development and other aspects, through talent exchange, expert dispatch, training, cooperative research, technical cooperation and field demonstration and other cooperation modes.



MoU Signing Ceremony © CATAS

CIRAD

CIRAD's New Quarterly Newsletter: Partnering4Impact

CIRAD now has a second, quarterly newsletter, Partnering4Impact, for public- and private-sector financial partners and other influential players interested in research or development. It contains information on our projects, our research and sustainable development expertise, our partnerships, and our impact on the ground. It also provides benchmarks and key information on the main global challenges facing tropical and Mediterranean countries.

You can read previous issues and subscribe to Partnering4Impact here: <https://www.cirad.fr/en/novaezmailing/register/funder>



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The Global Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the DeSIRA initiative

The Global Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework of the DeSIRA initiative has just been designed. It was informed by the DeSIRA projects signed in 2020 and 2021: [DeSIRA Global Monitoring and Evaluation Framework | Capacity4dev \(europa.eu\)](#). This M&E framework facilitates the steering and management of the DeSIRA initiative at global level, it helps determine the extent to which the overarching objectives of the DeSIRA initiative are being achieved, and it contributes to report and communicate on new approaches to agricultural research and innovation. The DeSIRA initiative includes around 80 projects each of them with their own M&E framework.

The global M&E framework is an innovation in itself as there are not too many examples of M&E framework at program level with operational mechanisms to inform indicators. The global M&E framework includes initiative-level indicators called Global DeSIRA Indicators (GDIs), most of which are built on existing and approved DeSIRA project indicators. They were selected based on their relevance to the DeSIRA initiative and of data availability at project level. GDIs have been designed in a way that minimizes the amount of calculation and consolidation needed to inform and update them. Not mandatory at project level, GDIs are not meant to substitute project indicators or to support project-level monitoring processes. The global M&E framework comprises 28 GDIs: 7 impact indicators, 13 indicators attached to 4 outcomes and 8 indicators attached to 6 outputs.

FAO

New elearning courses published on the FAO elearning Academy

The FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) and FAO elearning Academy, together with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) are extremely pleased to announce the publication of the joint elearning course: "[Farm machinery and equipment for harvest, post-harvest and storage](#)"

The course, which is part of a series of courses on Mechanization, is certified and available free of charge, as a global public good, through the FAO elearning Academy.

Furthermore, the FAO elearning Academy has published additional courses on [Agripreneurship](#), [Sustainable Food Systems](#), [Developing gender-sensitive value chains](#), to mention some. We invite you to explore more courses [here](#).



Farm machinery and equipment
for harvest, post-harvest and
storage



CERTIFIED COURSE

GFRAS

European Tour of the GFRAS Delegation

On 16 May 2023, a GFRAS delegation visited FAO and had an exchange with FAO staff working at the FAO e-learning Academy and FAO Office of Innovation. The delegation consisted of Dr. Carl Erik Schou Larsen (Global Secretariat), Ms. Maria Isabel Paredes (RELASER), Dr. Norma Samuel (Board CAEPNet), Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman (APIRAS), Dr. Silim Nahdy (AFAAS), and Mr. Ulrich Ryser (AGRIDEA). The GFRAS visit was a part of a roundtrip to the GFRAS European partners held in May 2023, and served to share information on ongoing initiatives.

APIRAS Learning Workshop

The Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services (APIRAS) and its sub-regional networks organized a learning workshop to support representatives of the Country Extension Networks to know more about the activities of APIRAS and its sub-regional networks. The workshop took place in Bangkok from 24 to 26 January 2023. The workshop helped them learn about potential opportunities and interventions to strengthen their initiatives and plan the next set of interventions. The workshop also discussed ways of improving the governance of APIRAS and discussed the ongoing APAARI-APIRAS Joint Action Plan on strengthening agricultural innovation systems in the Asia-Pacific implemented under the FAO-TAP-AIS project.



Group photo of the Learning Workshop ©APIRAS

Blogs on World Radio Day

The Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESAs) published two blogs to commemorate the World Radio Day celebrated every year on 13 February 2023. While the blog from India traces the history of agricultural broadcasting in India and argues why the Radio is still relevant for agricultural development in India, the blog from Sri Lanka discusses some of the key challenges faced by a 'public broadcaster' in Sri Lanka, in an era of rapidly growing technology that demands constant changes and adaptation within the larger media ecosystem.

You can read the blogs here:

- [The continuing relevance of all India radio for agricultural development in the digital era](#)
- [Survival of Sri Lankan public radio in the age of convergence](#)

RELASER

Initiatives based on technology to transform Rural Extension: meet the results of the LMP Innovation Funds

Through the presentation of different innovation cases for the strengthening of Rural Extension Services in Colombia and Costa Rica, the [Latin American Network for Rural Extension Service \(RELASER\)](#) introduced the main results of the innovation funds of the 'Delivering Extension Services to the Last-Mile' – LMP program, funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

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During the webinar, which took place on 6 December 2022, three success stories were socialized (one from Colombia and two from Costa Rica), which aim to support the development of innovation in extension services, to reach the small-scale producers and provide them a better service. Thus, innovation was seen as an added value, or as a solution to a determined group's problem.

Please read [here](#) the summary of the event.



Strengthening college curriculums: a participative process to develop abilities for agricultural innovation.

With a first meeting held virtually on 17 May 2023, the initiative "Strengthening college curriculums to develop capacities for agricultural innovation systems" was introduced. This project is implemented by RELASER and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), with the support of the FAO, TAP and the DeSIRA initiative. It aims, on one hand, to design and document recommendations to incorporate the capacities that improve the performance of agricultural innovation systems on professional study programs, and on the other hand, to consolidate RELASER's university group, with the incorporation of additional members and of contents to reflect upon.

After presenting this framework, the team listened to the consultations, comments and suggestions from the participants, to enrich the debate and solve any doubts about the initiative. A success case was presented: the curriculum renewal for the career of Innovation and Sustainability at the Agrarian Management Department in the Santiago de Chile University, which was received with great interest from the participants.



In this initiative, that was developed in 2020, the parties involved proposed to redesign the curriculum of this career, orienting it towards new challenges such as sustainability, strengthening cooperation amongst the public sector, the academia and enterprises, to improve the process of learning through practice, promoting an early finalization of the career and creating a close link between science and teaching. The parties identified as a success that the career has achieved good indicators regarding employability levels towards agricultural businesses, indicators that, they hope, will remain with the implementation of the new curricular plan. The process of building this plan started from the creation of a participative council in which former students took part to connect ideas and activities that might strengthen the career.

The meeting was attended by 23 representatives from universities of seven countries in Latin America.

TAP-AIS PROJECT

■ Colombia - The impact of the TAP-AIS project in strengthening capacities for rural innovation in Antioquia and Boyacá

In Colombia, the TAP-AIS Project aims to contribute to capacity development to promote, recognize and strengthen rural innovation in the context of productive and sustainable transformation of agri-food systems. For this purpose, the project prioritized two agricultural innovation experiences in Colombia: Campo Dulce SAS in the beekeeping sector of Bajo Cauca Antioqueño and the Asociación Campesina Ambiental y Cultural de Boyacá (ASCACB) in Boyacá's dairy chain. The project conducted participatory evaluations of each territorial innovation system to identify gaps for strengthening capacities of these organizations.

The results obtained include the design and implementation of a digital literacy plan for training in digital skills and appropriation of technological tools to reduce the gaps in access and use of digital technologies by producers of Campo Dulce SAS and ASCACB. A diagnosis was made to identify the behaviour patterns of producers in relation to digital tools in the two territories to carry out practical training sessions and farm to farm visits to address the prioritized topics.

Specific support was provided to the beekeeping chain with Campo Dulce SAS, a second-level organization of which five (5) beekeepers' associations are members (Fibrarte, Asopisnar, Asocuturú, Red Nudo Paramillo and Ascabia) and to the dairy chain with the producers' organization ASCACB.

Please read here the main results achieved so far by the project: <https://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/news/detail/en/c/1633641/>

■ Eritrea: Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship training

In Eritrea, the TAP-AIS Project organized on 13-15 March 2023 a Training on Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurial skills at the conference hall of the Association of Eritreans in Agricultural Science (AEAS).

The general objective was to assist the Ministry of Agriculture in introducing the Agribusiness management to the staff and producer associations which will help the producers' associations to support market oriented sustainable production, to promote small and medium scale agribusiness development and improve performance.

The training on Agribusiness management and entrepreneurship was the first of its kind for almost all the participants. A total of 28 participants (18% female) from the management board of five producer association and farmers from five regions, Agricultural Extension Department, and Planning and Statistics Division (PSD) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) experts attended the training. Through this workshop knowledge and understanding of trainees on Agribusiness Management and entrepreneurship was improved and the management capacity of producers' associations was enhanced.

■ Malawi - Sub-regional Policy Dialogues discuss and prioritize potential solutions to address the challenges facing agricultural research in Malawi

On 26 and 28 April 2023, the Government of Malawi (Department of Agricultural Extension Services- DAES) with support from FAO's TAP-AIS project held two sub-national policy dialogue events on "Research Capacity for Sustainable Agrifood Systems in the Context of the Agricultural Innovation System" in the two southern and central districts of Balaka and Ntchisi. A total of 104 participants attended the two events, among which 30 were women.



Participants included the government of Malawi's District Council authorities: Agricultural Development Divisions (ADD), Research Stations, District Agriculture Offices, farmer representatives, including innovators, Decentralized Agricultural Extension Services System (DAESS) platforms, private sector research actors, CGIAR research institutions, local inputs suppliers, local NGOs, media institutions, FAO Malawi and other Development Partners in the agriculture sector.

The policy dialogue facilitation team included Government of Malawi (DAESS, Department of Agriculture Planning Services, and Department of Agriculture Research Services), Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and FAO Malawi.

The goal of the two sub-national policy dialogues was to develop the Government of Malawi's capacity to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues to influence policy to strengthen the agricultural research in the overarching National Agriculture Policy.

In this first step, issues hindering the capacity to facilitate and/or engage in agricultural research effectively in the context of Agricultural Innovation System (AIS) have been explored to identify needs and ideas for policy interventions.

During the two-district policy dialogues the following points were raised:

- Innovation is critical for agrifood systems transformation in Malawi.
- AIS in Malawi is characterized by weak research function that constrains innovation and to address these constraints, actors engaged with the research sub-sector need to support agricultural innovation.
- Several key obstacles of agricultural research in promoting innovation were identified: the research sub-sector does not have presence at district level, there is limited interaction and networking between research service providers, limited capacity to mobilize resources for innovation processes, absence of guiding policies and weak linkages between research and extension structures at community level, absence of a functioning knowledge management and communication strategy, and absence of skills and systems for monitoring, evaluation and learning from AIS initiatives.
- Stakeholders identified new roles that research should play to promote innovation processes, including research and other AIS actors need to engage and coordinate using the DAESS structures to find solutions that address farmer challenges at district level, integrating the research function in multiple levels of DAESS structure (i.e., model village, Village Agricultural Committee, Area Stakeholder Panel, and District Agricultural Extension Coordinating Committee).
- The role of extension workers in the process of integrating research into DAESS should shift from assembling farmers' demands and transferring solutions, to that of innovation brokers who should facilitate networking and social learning among farmer researchers, researchers from formal institutions and other actors in the agrifood system and finding innovative ways of incorporating indigenous knowledge and traditional methods to address local challenges in farming.



Burkina Faso - TAP-AIS project at the National Days of Agricultural Innovations

The "Development of Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture" (DeSIRA) initiative, a pioneering program by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnership (DG INTPA), organized a three-day workshop on the Burkinabe National Agricultural Innovation System. Known as the "National Days of Agricultural Innovations," the workshop was jointly organized by the National Center of Scientific and Technological Research of Burkina Faso (CNRST), the European Union Delegation, and [CIRAD](#). It provided valuable insights from 14 research-innovation projects initiated under the DeSIRA program. The event took place from June 14th to 16th in Ouagadougou.

The objective of these 14 projects (including the TAP-AIS project) is to leverage research in designing and implementing innovative solutions that address the challenges of sustainable development. These initiatives encompass a range of innovations, including novel agricultural productions (such as crops, livestock, and agroforestry), associated services (such as innovation support and advisory services), and new agroecological systems in the face of climate change. The partner organizations involved in the DeSIRA projects employ diverse approaches to co-design and promote these innovations, actively engaging all relevant stakeholders across various impact levels, such as production, territories, value chains, services, and policy frameworks. By enhancing technical and functional innovation capacities at both individual and organizational levels, these projects aim to increase knowledge, drive behavioural change, improve skills, foster better technical and managerial practices, and contribute to informed policy decisions.

The workshop served as a platform to showcase and raise awareness about these initiatives. It fostered closer collaboration and cooperation among the different projects, encouraging the sharing of experiences related to agricultural innovation support and the reinforcement of the National Agricultural Innovation System. Furthermore, the event aimed to highlight the relevance and value-added by the participatory research-innovation approaches advocated by the DeSIRA initiative. These approaches are pivotal in facilitating sustainable transformation pathways within agri-food systems.

Participants at the workshop included partners from the DeSIRA projects, with a particular focus on research actors, as well as other stakeholders actively involved in agricultural development activities. The event offered them the opportunity to engage in reflective discussions on innovative approaches that can inspire their own initiatives. The primary target audience comprised policymakers, technical and financial partners, and project operators such as consulting firms, agricultural professional organizations, NGOs/CSOs, and others actively involved in driving agricultural development and innovation.



*European Delegation in Burkina Faso
at the TAP-AIS project booth ©FAO*

SAVE THE DATE



FAO GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK TRANSFORMATION - BETTER PRODUCTION, BETTER NUTRITION, BETTER ENVIRONMENT, BETTER LIFE (25 TO 27 SEPTEMBER 2023)

FAO is organizing the first Global Conference on Sustainable Livestock Transformation from 25 to 27 September 2023 at FAO headquarters, Rome. The event will provide a neutral forum for representatives of FAO Members, producer organizations, research and academic institutions, development agencies, civil society organizations and private sector bodies to engage in dialogues on innovations and pathways to efficiently produce more nutritious, safe and accessible animal source foods with a reduced environmental footprint, and contribute to vibrant local and diversified livestock systems that are more resilient to shocks and disruptions. The event will take place in person upon invitation, and it will also be web streamed so people around the world can follow it virtually.



Registration to watch the event virtually is not requested, but we encourage you to complete [this form](#), so that you will receive important updates about the event.

14TH GFRAS ANNUAL MEETING (17-19 OCTOBER 2023), DENVER, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

The 14th GFRAS Annual Meeting (GAM), hosted by the North American Agricultural Advisory Network (NAAAN) is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, through Thursday, October 19, 2023. This in-person event will focus on 'Building the Next Generation of Leaders in Agriculture'.

Registrations are now open here: <https://naaan.csusystem.edu/gfras2023/>



FAO SCIENCE AND INNOVATION FORUM (16-20 OCTOBER 2023)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is organizing the FAO Science and Innovation Forum 2023 (SIF 2023), which will take place from 16 to 20 October 2023 in a hybrid mode, at the Headquarters of FAO in Rome, Italy, and virtually. SIF 2023 builds on the success of SIF 2022. This year's theme of the FAO SIF will be "Science and Innovation for Climate Action", aligned with the overarching World Food Forum (WFF) theme "Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action".

FAO SIF 2023 will focus on enhancing the accessibility of the most appropriate climate technologies, innovative practices and local knowledge in agrifood systems for climate change adaptation, resilience and mitigation. It will allow a more focused and strategic debate on how science, technology and innovation affect vulnerability, impact and capacities, and are essential to transform agrifood systems and boost climate action.

It will facilitate sharing experiences and lessons learned on implementing concrete solutions on the ground to step up climate action, supporting Members to accelerate efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the FAO Four Betters, leaving no one behind.

Registration are now open [here](#) !

The 6th Africa-Wide Agricultural Extension Week 2023 (5 -11 November 2023)

The 6th Africa-Wide Agricultural Extension Week 2023, will be held in Abuja Nigeria from 5 to 11 November and will be co-hosted by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Nigerian Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services. The Extension week is a bi-annual flagship event of AFAAS that brings participants from across Africa and globally to deliberate on strategic issues in agricultural extension and advisory services (AEAS) in Africa.

The 6th AAEW 2023 theme is: "Harnessing Agricultural Extension & Advisory Services in Scaling Regenerative Agriculture and Nature Based Solutions for Food System Transformation in Africa".



AFAAS uses the Africa Wide Agricultural Extension Week as a unique avenue for sharing experiences and learning between professionals from different backgrounds, strengthening interactions with policymakers and investors and developing strategic partnerships. In addition, the AAEW provides a platform to discuss AFAAS strategic directions and functioning, new developments, emerging needs, paradigms and defining new directions for AEAS for the coming years.

PUBLICATIONS



REGIONAL BRIEF ON STRENGTHENING THE CONTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND EDUCATION IN MAINSTREAMING AGROECOLOGY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC (APIRAS, APAARI AND FAO)

This regional brief is an output from the first meeting of the Working Group on Agroecology organised under the FAO's TAP-AIS Project by the Asia Pacific Island Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS) and the Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) in close collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The publication is available here: <https://www.aesanetwork.org/news/strengthening-the-contribution-of-agricultural-research-extension-and-education-in-mainstreaming-agroecology-in-the-asia-pacific/>



TECHNOLOGY CATALOG CONTRIBUTING TO PRODUCTION POTENTIAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE ASIA-MONSOON REGION (JIRCAS)

As part of the activities of Green Asia, the JIRCAS project started in 2022 and in cooperation with other research institutes concerned, 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 Japan shares similar features with the Asia-Monsoon region, such as high temperature and humidity, paddy rice-based agriculture, and a high proportion of small and medium-sized farmers, this 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.

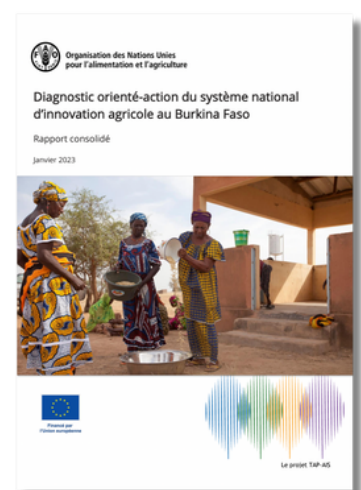


The publication is available here: <https://www.jircas.go.jp/en/greenasia/techcatalog>

BURKINA FASO – ASSESSMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION SYSTEM (IN FRENCH)

The action-oriented assessment of the national agricultural innovation system in Burkina Faso was conducted jointly by the FAO and the Ministry in charge of agriculture, with the aim of informing short-term policy action while proposing a comprehensive, long-term strategic framework for building the capacities of stakeholders in the national agricultural innovation system (NAIS). The report assessment aimed at understanding the policy action needed in the short term, while proposing a comprehensive strategic framework for the long term to strengthen the capacities of actors in the national agricultural innovation system. The main results of this assessment consist of quantitative and qualitative assessments of the functions, structures and capacities of the NAIS, accompanied by graphic visualizations that facilitate a collective discussion on the reinforcement actions to be carried out.

The publication is available here: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3824fr>



POLICY BRIEF - HOW TO CREATE A MORE FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION IN BURKINA FASO? (IN FRENCH)

This policy brief is based on the results of the action-oriented assessment of the national agricultural innovation system carried out between 2020 and 2021 in Burkina Faso and proposes a strategic and policy framework for strengthening innovation capacities on a national scale. The recommendations made are mainly aimed at strengthening the offer of support services to initiators of innovative projects in priority technological fields, at strengthening the capacities of organizations that play a key role in the governance of the national AIS, and in particular at creating an inter-ministerial body for orientation of government action in support of agricultural innovation, by making available to it, with the help of research, a set of methodologies and tools for monitoring and evaluating agricultural innovation support actions.

The publication is available here: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2700fr>



AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION PATHWAYS IN CAMBODIA. HIGHLIGHTS AND WAY FORWARD FROM THE TAP-AIS PROJECT

This brief gives an overview of the TAP-AIS project in Cambodia, implemented from January 2020 to December 2022. At the country level, the TAP-AIS project works to strengthen capacities to innovate and the innovation policy environment. In Cambodia, the project strengthened the capacities of three key institutions to innovate: the Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Cambodia Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification Consortium (CASIC) and the Department of Extension for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DEAFF). Highlights, lessons learned and ways forward from the capacity development interventions with these three organizations are presented in this brief for interested stakeholders to learn from the project and build on its achievements.

The publication is available here: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc6920en>



POLICY BRIEF - ENHANCING THE ANIMAL FEED VALUE CHAIN FOR PIG AND POULTRY PRODUCTION IN RWANDA

This policy brief examines the critical issue of insufficient availability and access to affordable and nutritious animal feeds in Rwanda's pig and poultry value chains. The problem has far-reaching consequences, including increased malnutrition in livestock, reduced populations of pigs and poultry, rising incidents of theft on farms, human malnutrition due to protein deficiency, and heightened poverty levels. The situation has been exacerbated by significant price fluctuations in animal feeds following the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy brief identifies the root causes of the problem, which affect both the input and output sides of the animal feed value chain, and presents targeted recommendations to mitigate these challenges.

The policy brief is available here: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5296en>



POLICY BRIEF - SMALL LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA: ENHANCING THE POLICY ENVIRONMENT FOR PIG AND POULTRY VALUE CHAINS

The policy brief highlights the progress made in developing the small livestock subsector in Rwanda through initiatives like the Livestock Master Plan (LMP) 2017-2022 and the Fourth Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation (PSTA 4) 2018-2024. Investments in piggery and poultry genetics, feeds, and health services have improved productivity in small livestock value chains. However, challenges persist due to policy and environmental factors.

The policy brief can be downloaded here: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc6015en>



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION SYSTEM ASSESSMENT IN RWANDA: THE SMALL LIVESTOCK SUB-SECTOR

An assessment of the Agricultural Innovation System (AIS) of Rwanda's small livestock sub-sector was conducted in 2021. This report describes the AIS of the small livestock sub-sector in terms of key functions, the underlying causes of their performance, and opportunities for improvement. It presents priorities and entry points for strengthening the AIS of the small livestock sub-sector in Rwanda, with focus on key organisations and the policy level. The assessment focused on three cases studies of innovation in the small livestock sub-sector: The Sasso dual breed chicken by Uzima Chicken Limited, with focus on small-scale farmers' poultry production; piggery/artificial insemination by the Centre for Agriculture Enhancement (CPPA) in Kisaró, for genetic improvement in pigs for small-holder farming; and the animal feed industry by Gorilla Feed Co., Limited, a cross-cutting business for animal production in the country.

The report makes nine concrete recommendations for strengthening the small livestock sub-sector regarding collaboration and coordination, capacity development and at the policy level. It identifies two national associations on which to focus the TAP-AIS projects' capacity development phase: Rwanda Pig Farmers Association (RPFA) and Rwanda Poultry Industry Association (RPIA).

This publication can be accessed here: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5149en>



In Focus

Farmers practicing conservation agriculture (CA) in Cambodia.

Despite the demonstrated benefits of CA, its adoption has remained limited due to insufficient multistakeholder collaboration and a lack of targeted policies to support farmers in adopting CA.

The EU-funded TAP-AIS project, implemented by FAO, addressed this gap through a year-long multistakeholder policy dialogue process, in collaboration with the Cambodia Conservation Agriculture Sustainable and Sustainable Intensification Consortium (CASIC).



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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.

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Since August 2019, the EU has been supporting TAP through the project "Developing capacities in agricultural innovation systems: scaling up the TAP Framework" (TAP-AIS), implemented by FAO.