



TAP-AIS PROJECT

Asia-Pacific regional webinar on strengthening agricultural research and extension organizations to support agriculture innovation

On 21 June 2022, the Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS) and the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) in partnership with the Research and Extension Unit of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) held a webinar on "Strengthening capacities of agricultural research and extension organizations to support agriculture innovation in Asia-Pacific." With over 300 registered participants and over 100 live participants, the webinar generated a high level of interest among regional stakeholders demonstrating their commitment to supporting agricultural innovation in the Asia-Pacific region.

The webinar highlighted the results from an online survey on challenges faced by research and extension in promoting agricultural innovation in the region, and good practices were also presented and discussed by four panellists representing experiences from India, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Papua New Guinea. The result of their discussion was a rich picture of not only the myriad challenges faced by the Asia-Pacific region, but also examples of innovative approaches to address these challenges and promote a sustainable agri-food systems transformation in the region.

More information about this event is available here. The full recording of this webinar is available on the TAP YouTube Channel.



The TAP-AIS project

TAP-AIS project countries validated the findings of the AIS assessment and capacity needs of key selected organizations

Between February and May 2022, a series of workshops were organized in the TAP-AIS project countries to present the findings of the AIS assessments (i.e. Colombia), and to elaborate a roadmap for developing capacities of key organizations of the national AIS (i.e. Eritrea, Malawi and Senegal).

The meetings brought together relevant stakeholders of the AIS to discuss and prioritize capacity development areas to better support agricultural innovation in the countries. More information of these events is available below.

Colombia: https://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/news/detail/en/c/1480990/ Eritrea: https://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/news/detail/en/c/1473054/ Malawi: https://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/news/detail/en/c/1506080/ Senegal: https://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/news/detail/en/c/1530135/



Cambodian second sub national policy dialogue on market linkages and commercial opportunities in conservation agriculture and agriculture intensification

The second policy dialogue on marketing was held on 13 June 2022 according to the Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification Consortium (CASIC) policy dialogue road map. It provided an opportunity to key market actors to increase awareness about policy issues affecting local market of conservation agriculture products, promote dialogue among policymakers, key stakeholders, and smallholder farmers on the issues and opportunities to promote marketing in conservation agriculture products, and to catalyse a consensus-building process toward enabling environment enhancing policies.

The event was attended by thirty-one participants from national and local stakeholder organizations involved in conservation agriculture and agriculture intensification implementation, provincial research institutions, NGOs traders, input suppliers, district authorities, microfinance institutions, farmers and agribusiness. **Participants** highlighted importance of increasing the interest of smallholder farmers to adopt conservation agriculture and agricultural intensification practices, and creation of label or certification scheme for local seeds production.



Participants of the policy dialogue ©FAO

Training workshop to strengthen DAEC staff capacity to better understand farmer needs

A training on the Farmer Information Needs Assessment (FINA) approach under FAO's TAP-AIS project took place in Vientiane in late March 2022. The aim was for participants to learn in an interactive manner the importance of understanding farmer needs, and the approaches and tools training required to conduct the necessary assessments.





Training participants © FAO

This training was the first step in capacity development support to strengthen the Department of Agricultural Extension and Cooperatives' (DAEC) ability to provide services that are demand-driven and more responsive to farmers' needs. The training was well attended with 17 in-person participants from the national DAEC staff and the Lao Korea Development Centre (KOICA) as well as over 20 virtual participants from DAEC's wide network of provincial staff. FAO collaborated with regional experts from the Centre for Research on Science and Innovation Policy (CRISP) to organize and implement this training. The next steps involve the trainees conducting a needs assessment with farmers in the field and analysing the results to develop a way forward. Strengthened extension services provided by DAEC will in turn empower Lao farmers to innovate in order to improve their livelihoods and climate resilience.





Marketplace and innovation fair in Lao PDR

From 30 May to 2 June 2022 a four-day *Agriculture Innovation Fair and Market Place for Capacity Development Needs* took place at the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), in Vientiane Capital. There were 56 booths, parallel presentations, panel discussions and NAFRI's research seminar.

More than 350 people participated and visited the market in four days. More than 30 agriculture producers including farmer groups, farmer associations, smallholder farmers and agrientrepreneurs participated, displayed, and sold their agricultural products. In addition, 26 different actors did show case their activities/ innovations in agrifood sector.





Marketplace and innovation fair ©FAO

UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

AGRINATURA

First cross-project inception workshops - DeSIRA-LIFT Project

In March, April and May 2022, a set of inception workshops – *Aiming for Impacts: what do you need and how can DeSIRA-LIFT support you?* - were organized to introduce the <u>DeSIRA-LIFT</u> facility – Service Area 1 – to the DeSIRA Pillar 1 project managers and their Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) officers. Sixty-nine DeSIRA projects divided into four geographic clusters (Latin America, French-speaking Africa region, English-speaking Africa region, Asia region), were invited to jointly review their challenges to prove and improve their impacts during four working sessions over four days.







Fifty-three projects, i.e. 129 participants actively participated and discussed their support needs as regard to: using a contextualized Theory of Change to better strategize their intervention; making research work for open innovation processes; building spaces for learning and capacity development in their MEL system; making sense of their results in the broader context of the DeSIRA Initiative. The inception workshops were instrumental to trigger communities of practice of DeSIRA projects around similar regions, topics, or challenges.

Many projects are very exploratory, being engaged in uncertain innovation processes hence needing tailored managerial tools and frameworks but also recognition of the uniqueness of research and innovation projects in their characteristics and specific universe of constraints they have to deal with. In this regards, DeSIRA project managers were invited to submit their support requests after the completion of the inception workshops.

As from September 2022, the DeSIRA-LIFT facility will propose them tailored packages of support services from the <u>existing menu</u>, mostly training and coaching services related to the five-core managerial capacities, and will also facilitate a DeSIRA Community of Practice.

The DeSIRA-LIFT service area 1 is an on-demand service facility for pillar 1 DeSIRA Projects, that targets five core managerial capacities of project implementers considered as accelerators of projects' outcomes and impacts. They are: capacity to do real-time MEL, capacity to manage open innovation processes, capacity to adapt and respond to innovation needs in a given context, capacity to influence project environment(s) and



strengthen national agricultural innovation systems, capacity to collaborate in multi-actor partnerships.



DeSIRA-LIFT service area 1 is led by CIRAD and ISA and implemented by a group of international experts.

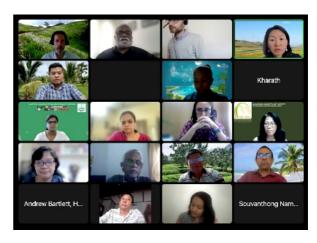
Implementing partners of DeSIRA-LIFT:



APIRAS

First Meeting of the APIRAS-APAARI-FAO Working Group on Agroecology

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) organized the first meeting of the Working Group on Agroecology on 10 June 2022.



Participants of APIRAS-APAARI-FAO Working Group © FAO

AESA

Skilling youth for sustainable food systems transformation

On the occasion of World Youth Skills Day, held on 15 July 2022, Dr Mahesh Chander (Joint Director - Extension Education, ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Uttar Pradesh, India) shared his thoughts on why it is important to skill today's youth for making farming remunerative. Please read the full article here.

"The world is changing in significant ways, and here lies the opportunity for India's youth to make the most of it. For this to happen, action needs to be catalysed if we are to address the barriers to youth development and prepare the youth for a world that is changing in significant ways."

Dr. Mahesh Chander





CAAS



China Agricultural Outlook Report (2022-2031) released in Beijing

The 2022 China Agricultural Outlook Conference, hosted by the Institute of Agricultural Information of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), was held on 20 April 2022 in Beijing. During the conference the China Agricultural Outlook Report (2022-2031) was released and includes analysis and forecast on the production, consumption, trade and prices of 18 main agricultural products (i.e. rice, wheat, corn, soybean, cotton, oilseeds and oils, sugar, vegetables, fruits, pork, poultry, beef, mutton, eggs, dairy products, aquatic products, and feed).

The 2022 China Agricultural Outlook Conference also hosted high-level discussions on agricultural development hotspots such as food security, agricultural science and technology innovation, agricultural green development, international trade in agricultural products, and agricultural monitoring and early warning. The Conference was supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), and the inter-ministerial coordination mechanism for monitoring and early warning of agricultural product markets.

Based on a large amount of data, advanced models and professional teams, the China Agricultural Outlook Report released for nine consecutive years has become an important window for the supply dynamics demand and of China's agricultural products and the trend of China's agricultural development. Conference has become major information service platform for agricultural science and technology of CAAS.

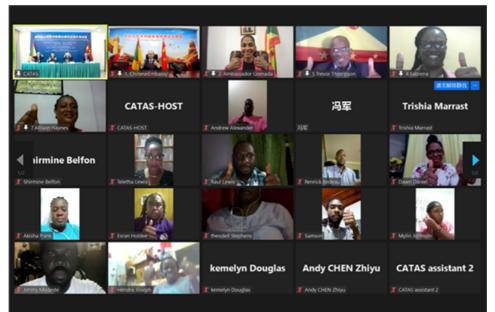


2022 China Agricultural Outlook Conference

CATAS

CATAS Training Courses on IPM of Tropical Crops and Agricultural Products Processing

From 11 to 31 May 2022, the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) conducted the 21-day "Training Course on Integrated Pest Management of Tropical Crops for Grenada". The training in Grenada was tailor-made based on the country's demands. Lectures shared IPM experience of tropical crops in a targeted manner with an aim to increase agricultural outputs, promote modernization in agricultural production and support poverty alleviation for Grenada.



Training Course on Integrated Pest Management of Tropical Crops for Grenada ©CATAS





Following the same approach, CATAS started on 14 June 2022 the 30-day "Training Course on Agricultural Products Processing for Guyana". The training in Guyana promoted China's agricultural product processing experience to drive Guyana go deeper in agricultural product processing and fuel local social and economic development via lectures, discussions cloud visits, among others.





Training Course Agricultural Products Processing for Guyana ©CATAS

Both training courses attracted more than 60 participants from Grenada and Guyana to sign up. The trainees in Guyana mainly come from Guyana Marketing Corporation, Guyana School of Agriculture and agro-processing enterprises.

The second China-Africa Forum on Tropical Agricultural Science and Technology Cooperation

On 31 May 2022, the second China-Africa Forum on Tropical Agricultural Science and Technology (S&T) Cooperation was held in Haikou. Participants attending the Forum include more than 50 scholars and researchers from China's agricultural scientific research institutions, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), and African countries, namely Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana, Mauritius, Liberia, and Cameroon. This forum was co-hosted by CATAS and the Chinese Society for Tropical Crops and guided by the Hainan Association for Science and Technology and WFP China Office. With the theme of "Strengthening S&T Collaborative Innovation to Build a Think Tank for International Tropical Agriculture Cooperation", the forum discussed the development of tropical crop industry and technology of cassava, corn, oil palm, cocoa, sugar cane, cashews, among others; as well as aquatic products and biogas technology based on the status quo of tropical agricultural S&T development and the technological demands in tropical agricultural industrial development.



Opening ceremony remarks ©CATAS





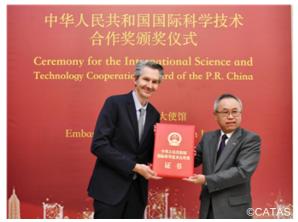




Participants of the Forum

Ceremony for the International Science and Technology Cooperation Award of the P.R.China

On 31 May 2022, the "Ceremony for the International Science and Technology Cooperation Award of the P.R.China" was held at the Chinese Embassy in Italy. CATAS participated virtually in the ceremony as the cooperator of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). Li Junhua, Chinese Ambassador to Italy awarded the medal and certificate to CIAT on behalf of the Chinese government. Leaders and experts attending the ceremony included Liu Guodao, Vice President of CATAS, Juan Lucas Restrepo, Director General of the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Ambassador Guang Defu, China's Permanent Representative to the UN Agencies for Food and Agriculture and more. The Ceremony was presided over by Shen Jianlei, Minister Counsellor for Science and Technology Affairs of the Chinese Embassy in Italy.



Chinese Ambassador to Italy Li Junhua (R) Presents the Certificate to Juan Lucas Restrepo, Director General of the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT





Liu Guodao, Vice President of CATAS and Other Staff attended the ceremony virtually



Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist of FAO at the ceremony





ATAS-INIAP Workshop and Training on Banana Fusarium Wilt Control Wraps up

On 30 June 2022, the CATAS and the National Institute of Agricultural Research of Ecuador (INIAP) jointly held the "Workshop and Training on Banana Fusarium Wilt Control in Haikou" both offline and via video connections. Wei Zhenglin (Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the P. R. China), Xie Jianghui (Vice President of CATAS), Eduardo Izaguirre (Deputy Minister of the Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador), Raúl Jaramillo (Executive Director of INIAP), and Victor Prada (Secretary General of the World Banana Forum) addressed the workshop chaired by Liu Kui (Director of the International Cooperation Division of CATAS).



Workshop participants

The workshop was attended by more than 30 participants from the Ministry of the Agriculture and Livestock and INIAP of Ecuador and CATAS. The workshop mainly exchanged ideas on the progress in basic and applied research of banana fusarium wilt, demonstration and application of its integrated control technology, and cultivation of disease-resistant varieties.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

European Commission support to the International Treaty - Fifth cycle of Benefit-sharing Fund

On Biodiversity Day on 22 May 2022, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture launched a new call for project proposals to be supported by the Benefit-sharing Fund. The fifth round of the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) is intended to provide more than 6 million EURO of grants funding to projects benefitting small-scale farmers in developing countries, especially those most vulnerable to climate change and food insecurity, and dependent on plant genetic resources to ensure their livelihoods.

The Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF), which is under the direct control of the International Treaty's Governing Body, is the operational mechanism to use and share benefits arising from the Multilateral System. It supports projects that leverage plant genetic resources to find solutions for complex challenges relating to food and nutrition insecurity, biodiversity loss and climate change.

Sharing the benefits of plant genetic diversity

Since 2009, the BSF has supported 80 projects in 67 developing countries, benefitting over 1 million people, most of them small-scale farmers. The BSF enables small-scale farmers, scientists, and breeders to tap into the International Treaty's global gene pool of millions of different genetic materials to undertake research and develop new crop varieties important for food, nutrition, and livelihoods. Local farming communities get better connected to global systems. For example, farming communities in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia have been involved in testing varieties of sorghum and millet that were accessed from national and international gene banks. Together with extension agents and researchers, the farmers selected resilient crop varieties and further adapted these to their own local conditions.

Such projects enables farmers to access plant genetic materials and knowledge and further adapt these, while also contributing to the generation of more materials and knowledge into the International Treaty's Multilateral System for Access and Benefit-sharing, available to all Contracting Parties.





The BSF also invests in research and innovation and provides opportunities for young scientists with an interest in plant genetic resources management. Training and building capacities of researchers in developing countries is essential for ensuring long-term implementation of the International Treaty. To date, more than 5000 students have been trained through BSF projects. Recently, a young researcher involved in a BSF project received an award from the Turkish government for her research on wheat and climate change.

The Call for Proposals

BSF project funds are being made available to consortia of farmers, researchers and others that will be working on innovations to enhance plant diversity management in farmers' fields and local value chains, in the next four years.

European Commission funding

The BSF has been significantly supported with donor funds from the European Commission since 2011. In December 2021 the EC signed a new 4 million EURO grant contract with the FAO for a five-year multi donor project entitled "EU support to the International Treaty on Plant Genetics for Food and Agriculture". Part of this funding is being used for the BSF-5 call for proposals.

FAO

The FAO Science and Innovation Forum | 17-21 October 2022

FAO together with the World Food Forum (WFF) and Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum is organizing the FAO *Science and Innovation Forum* from 17 to 22 October 2022. The event will focus on highlighting the centrality of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for agrifood systems transformation, and encourage a diversity of perspectives based on science and innovation, thereby facilitating rationalization and inclusiveness of debate. More specifically, the objectives of the FAO Science and Innovation Forum are to:

- · explore scientific and technological advances and associated risks and opportunities,
- · analyse options for strengthening science and evidence-based decision-making,
- · share robust science and evidence-based options for more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems,
- · support countries in making informed decisions regarding the co-creation, adaptation and adoption of appropriate and context-specific technologies and innovations, and
- · promote effective science communication, including by engaging on contentious issues.

More information about the event is available here.





FAO eLearning Academy and its Academy Course Catalogue







The FAO eLearning Academy offers free access to content on a variety of topics of global interest, which is available in a range of formats, including elearning courses for self-paced learning, blended learning programmes, massive open online courses (MOOCs), technical webinars, online tutored courses, mobile learning, face-to-face training workshops and university master's and postgraduate degree programmes. Its main objective is to strengthen the human capital, through the transfer of knowledge, skills and multi- and transdisciplinary competencies, in order to generate competent professionals, able to face the global challenges.

In addition, the FAO eLearning Academy is adopting the Digital Badges Certification System, to certify the acquisition of competencies, in order to progress talents within organizations and increase employment opportunities.

Please visit the <u>Academy Course Catalogue</u> to learn more.

GFRAS

2022 GFRAS Annual Meeting -Registrations Open

Registration for the 2022 Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) Annual Meeting is now open! The event will take place as a face-to-face event and will be held between 25 and 27 October 2022 in Santiago, Chile. Side events will take place on 24 October 2022. The keynote discussions will also be broadcast online, and persons will have the opportunity to present their work in the "Shift and Share" session (poster presentations) also remotely. If you wish to register for this event, please click here.

More information about this event is available here

YPARD

YPARD at the Stockholm+50 Conference

Alphonce Muia, a young leader and YPARDian from Nigeria represented YPARD during the international conference that was held in the Swedish capital at the beginning of June 2022. He was an active participant, who assisted, and was a key speaker in multiple sessions and forums. Alphonce facilitated side events and created a new network with people that, as he and all other YPARDians, support the theme of the conference "Healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity".

TAP Newsletter





YPARD also prepared a Policy Position that was created by the YPARD Policy Working Group, this position includes a review of the conference as well as recommendations and an action plan that took into account and made part of the discussions that occurred after the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force made its petitions to the government. Read about the participation of YPARD Representative at the conference as well as the full Policy Position.

WORLD VEGETABLE CENTER

Strength in Seeds: Investing in Building Capacity for Improved Vegetable Production in West Africa

A recent diagnostic study conducted in Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali indicated that lack of quality seed and poor pest management are key barriers to vegetable production in West Africa. When vegetable farmers have little or no access to good quality seed, they cannot tap into the growing market for vegetables. To address this issue, The World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) has developed a new training course for vegetable seed producers in Africa to help improve the quality of seed production and take their business to the next level. Three WorldVeg projects worked together to develop the course: Safe Locally Produced Vegetable for West African consumers (SAFEVEG) funded by the European Union and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Choose, Grow and Thrive (CGT) funded by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany, and Veggies 4 Planet & People (V4P&P) funded by IKEA Foundation.



Participants of the training

TAP Newsletter

The first training session was organized in Benin and gathered 30 participants from seed companies and seed cooperatives as well as individual seed producers.







Practical session of the training

The course covered topics such as seed regulations and seed production techniques. Participants were satisfied with the modules and planned to apply their new knowledge to improve their seed production operations.

"This training is important for us as seed producers because we need to know the techniques and the regulations underlying seed production and marketing in our country" said a participant from a local seed company.

"In this training, we learned seed production techniques. This training is timely since we are at the onset of the cropping season and this is an opportunity for us to apply the newly acquired skills to produce higher quality seeds compared to what we used to do", explained the chairman of the National Vegetable Seed producers' Association.

"I learned a lot from this training. First of all, this training honed my skills in the maintenance of my seed multiplication field, seed storage, packaging, and marketing. I am now able to identify pests and select the appropriate products to control them", said a vegetable seed producer.

Post-training field visits are planned to support seed producers. Preparations are also ongoing to hold the training for vegetable seed producers in Burkina-Faso and Mali.



Handing over the training manual







ASSESSMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION SYSTEM IN COLOMBIA - CONSOLIDATED REPORT, FAO and IICA (2022), in Spanish

In the context of the TAP-AIS project, the assessment of the national agricultural innovation system (AIS) of Colombia was conducted in 2021 and the report has been recently published here. The overall objective of the report is to present an overview of the performance of the agricultural innovation system (AIS) in Colombia, including the factors limiting the innovation at country level, as well as the entry points for the strengthening of the national AIS.



GOOD PRACTICES IN STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION SYSTEMS (AIS) IN ASIA PACIFIC, APIRAS, APAARI and FAO (2022)

As part of the TAP-AIS project, the Asia-Pacific Islands and Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS), the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) in close collaboration with the Research and Extension Unit of the FAO published six good practices on strengthening AIS. The good practices are available online at the following links.

Good Practice 1: <u>Promoting Sustainable Agriculture through Green Extension in Lao People's Democratic Republic</u>
Good Practice 2: <u>Strengthening Capacities to Innovate through North-South Collaborative Research in Papua New Guinea</u>

Good Practice 3: Multi-stakeholder Approaches for Enhancing Command Area Water Productivity in India

Good Practice 4: Enhancing Organizational and Functional Capacities of Producer Organizations in India through Strategic Collaboration

Good Practice 5: Strengthening last mile service delivery to support smallholder farmers in India

Good Practice 6: Promoting community-driven innovations in the forested uplands of the Philippines



JIRCAS MANUAL FOR IMPROVING RICE PRODUCTION IN AFRICA

In Africa, most drainage channels in paddy fields constructed by farmers are earth canals, which are easily eroded by strong rains and running water, and result in diminishment of canal functions. The manual introduces inexpensive reinforcement measures for irrigation canals (reinforcement using cover-plants, wooden fence, and soil bricks) that can be implemented by farmers. The manual is available here.





AGRINATURA'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING INNOVATION FOR FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION - POSITION PAPER, AGRINATURA (2022)

Agrinatura recently published new Position Paper on "Agrinatura's role in supporting innovation for food system transformation" during its last General Assembly (18 – 19 May 2022) at the University College Cork, Ireland during the Open Policy Dialogue event.

The first draft of the Position Paper was presented to the General Assembly and discussed with member representatives and international panel composed of partners from European Commission (DG INTPA, DG AGRI and DG Research and Innovation), Asian partners (SEARCA, Prince of Songkhla University) and Young Professionals in Agricultural Development (YPARD). This living document was then adjusted according to comments and now published. Discussions held during the General Assembly and brought lot of new ideas and suggestions for areas of interest and focus. Read full Position Paper 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 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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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.