

OCTOBER 2020

TAP Newsletter



TAP PARTNERS ASSEMBLY



The **Seventh TAP Partners Assembly** will take place virtually from 16 to 20 November 2020. The event aims at bringing together TAP Partners to discuss the progress of implementation of the TAP Action Plan 2018-2021, to discuss future workplan, and improve coordination and collaboration among partners. The event consists of **two virtual sessions** to be held on 17 and 18 November 2020, as well as **side events** to be organised by TAP Partners, as follows:

MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2020

14:00-15:30 CET | **Developing Capacities for Agricultural Innovation Systems. Lessons from implementing a Common Framework in 8 countries**, organized by Agrinatura and FAO

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2020

14:00-16:00 CET | **Assessment of Agricultural Innovation Systems and Development of Country Profiles: Sharing Experiences from the Inception Phase of the TAP-AIS Project**, organized by FAO

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2020

13:00-14:30 CET | **Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators: a Critical Resource for Agricultural Innovation System Capacity Development**, organized by USAID and IFPRI

15:00-17:00 CET | **Regional Dialogue on Capacity Development in Agricultural Innovation Systems in Asia, Africa and Latin America**, organized IICA together with RELASER, APAARI, APIRAS, FARA and AFAAS

Additional information on the side events will be made available here: <http://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/en/>.

UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

AGREENIUM

■ Project “MIC Cuba” supports researchers from Cuba on banana and pineapple plant resistances against *Fusarium* and *Phytophthora*

On 16 July 2020 Agreenium received a grant from the Erasmus+France Agency to mobilize researchers from France and Cuba, for “MIC Cuba” project. Agreenium is acting on behalf of the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) to coordinate this project. The “MIC Cuba” project will be running for three years, from August 2020 to July 2023. During the first two years, two professors and one PhD student from Cuba, will be trained at CIRAD Montpellier on various techniques to identify, inoculate and evaluate in a laboratory for:

- banana systemic resistances to *Fusarium*; and
- pineapple resistance to *Phytophthora*.

In the third year, the researchers will test the implementation of systemic resistances to *Fusarium* and *Phytophthora* of banana and pineapple plants in experimental plots at CIRAD La Réunion site.



Banana plants infected by *Fusarium* wilt

■ A new MOOC on “Soil and Climate” to be launched in French and English

Agreenium, a member of the international initiative “4 per 1000”, is currently producing a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on Soil and Climate.

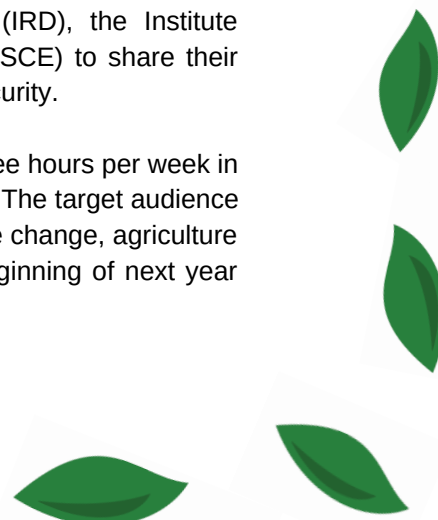
The initiative “4 per 1000” aims at demonstrating that agriculture, and in particular agricultural soils, can play a crucial role where food security and climate change are concerned.



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In particular, the MOOC Soil and Climate will bring together a wide range of experts from Agence de la transition écologique (Ademe), AgroParisTech, CIRAD, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE), the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), the Institute Agro/Montpellier and Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement (LSCE) to share their knowledge on the role agriculture and forest soil play in climate change and food security.

During the six weeks of the course, participants will be required to dedicate two to three hours per week in order to understand the challenges of the preservation of agricultural and forest soils. The target audience is stakeholders with a scientific background and working experience related to climate change, agriculture or biology. MOOC will be available on [Fun-MOOC](#) in French and English at the beginning of next year (January/February 2021).



APAARI

Inception Meeting for the Asia Pesticide Residue Mitigation Project (APRMP)

In the past issues of the TAP Newsletters, the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) already shared with TAP partners that its new project – Asia Pesticide Residue Mitigation through the Promotion of Biopesticides and Enhancement of Trade Opportunities (APRMP) – has fully integrated some of the key principles of the TAP Common Framework on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CD for AIS).

On 6 and 7 August 2020, APAARI, in collaboration with its partner Rutgers University in USA, organised an inception meeting to present the upcoming technical training programmes. In addition to the technical aspects, APAARI also added one day to focus on the project’s CD approach, as well as knowledge management (KM) and communication strategy that are integrating CD for AIS principles. These include:

- development of functional capacities at individual, organisational and enabling environment level;
- enhancing engagement through knowledge sharing and documentation of experiences;
- creating a space for enhanced interaction on pesticides residues; and
- mitigation and promotion of biopesticide used among different innovation actors, including scientists, private sector, government, universities and farmers.

During the meeting, participants agreed that in order for the project to deliver successful outcomes, it is important to involve the right types of stakeholders, including policy and decision makers from regulatory agencies in the participating countries. It was specifically pointed out, that effective documentation of project-generated knowledge and experiences should be a basis to meet future knowledge needs in realising to achieve the important minimum residue level (MRL) violations in trade. Furthermore, a strong KM strategy can help to embed the project evidence in policy processes.

APAARI has started designing a series of webinars to support functional capacity development for APRMP stakeholders. It is currently identifying professionals, who could share lessons learned and experiences, particularly in engaging with farmers and policymakers on biopesticides in Asia-Pacific or beyond. Please visit the APAARI website for more info about the project:

<http://www.apaari.org/web/what-we-do/asia-pesticide-residue-mitigation-wto-stdf/>.

If you have something to share that could contribute to this project, please contact APAARI.

CAAS

Scientist from IPP-CAAS was elected as Vice President of IOBC-Global

On 16 July 2020, the International Organization of Biological Control (IOBC)-Global announced the new Executive Committee for the 2020-2024 term, Dr. Gao Yulin from IPP-CAAS, was elected as Vice President of IOBC-Global.

IOBC was established in 1956. It is a global organization aiming to promote environmentally safe methods of pest and disease control. Membership in IOBC gives individuals and organisations the opportunity to participate in biological control activities beyond their specific jobs and workplaces, to step outside their bureaucracies, and to contribute to promoting biological control worldwide.

Elections Results: Welcome to the new Executive Committee 2020 to 2024



President
Martin Hill
Distinguished Professor and Head of Entomology at Rhodes University, South Africa



Past President
George Heimpel
Distinguished McKnight University Professor, Department of Entomology, University of Minnesota, USA



Secretary General
Joop C. van Lenteren
Emeritus professor of Entomology at Wageningen University, the Netherlands



Vice President
Ronny Groenteman
Weed biocontrol researcher at Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research, Lincoln, New Zealand



Vice President
Yulin Gao
Professor of Entomology at the Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing, China



Treasurer
Alejandro Tena
Biocontrol researcher at Instituto Valenciano de Investigaciones Agrarias (IVIA) in Valencia, Spain

Dr. Gao Yulin has been working on biological control and integrated pest management of potato and vegetable crops at IPP-CAAS, previously he served as the Vice President of APRS-IOBC (2012-2020), as scientific advisory board member for 2020 ICE Finland, and as committee member of International Branch of ESA.



CAAS participates in the First Summit Advisory Committee Meeting of 2021 Food Systems Summit

The First Summit Advisory Committee Meeting of Food Systems Summit 2021 was held virtually on 7 July 2020. Prof. Nie Fengying, Deputy Director-General of the Agricultural Information Institute (AII) of CAAS, participated in the virtual meeting as one of the Member State representatives of the Summit Advisory Committee. During the discussion, Prof. Fengying emphasised the importance of inclusive food value chain development, especially for family farming and smallholder farmers.

The Food Systems Summit 2021 was announced by the UN Secretary General on the World Food Day 2019 as part of the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. The Summit Advisory Committee set an ambitious vision and approach for the Food Systems Summit to build “A People’s Summit” and “A Solutions Summit” by taking up new actions, innovative solutions and strategies, recognising that food systems touch all stakeholders – every government, organisation and individual. Participants reviewed the roadmap and milestones of the Summit and approaches, and emphasised that the success of the Summit depends on the overall support of member states and the global community.

CATAS

Steady progress at the Hainan-Pohnpei Standardized Coconut Plantation constructed by CATAS

Since 2019, CATAS has sent coconut experts to Pohnpei State of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to guide the construction of Hainan-Pohnpei Standardized Coconut Plantation. For more than a year, steady progress has been made. A total of 250 coconut trees selected from three excellent local varieties, were planted. A training course on standardised coconut cultivation was held, which was attended by 20 people from the local Agricultural office staff, students and farmers. The wide-narrow row planting technique was taught to local farmers, in order to improve the utilisation rate of land and increase farmers’ income by interplanting other cash crops in the wide-narrow row of coconut, such as pasture, grass, coffee, bananas and pineapples. The Kaselehlie Press of the FSM reported the steady progress of the plantation.

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CATAS holds training courses on agricultural production and management ability promotion for female rural practitioners

CATAS conducted training courses from 19 to 27 August 2020 on agricultural production and management skills for female rural practitioners and agricultural managers, entrepreneurs, directors and backbones of farmers' cooperatives, and family farms operators in Hainan Province of China.

The courses were attended by 76 rural practitioners, and covered technical topics such as planting and breeding, as well as management themes such as planning, financial investment, brand promotion, network sales and market linkages.



Teaching network sale skills

The cordless electric tapping knife developed by CATAS improves rubber tapping efficiency

CATAS experts successfully developed a cordless electric tapping knife that breaks through the key technical problems of the conventional rubber tapping knife. It has been developed since 2015 and tested mainly in Hainan, Yunnan and Guangdong provinces of China. From 2017 to 2020, it has been used by 10 300 rubber farmers in China, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Lao PDR, India, and The Philippines.

The cordless electric tapping knife has proved to be user friendly, light weight (weighs only 350 grams). It also reduces tree injury, saves labour and improves the tapping efficiency in a single plant by 2-3 times more than the traditional rubber tapping knife.



CATAS expert teaches farmers to operate the cordless electric tapping knife



EFARD

2020 Virtual EFARD Annual General Meeting

On 14 September 2020, European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD) members convened in the 2020 Virtual Annual General Meeting. The meeting comprised a technical session and a business session.

Mr Francesco Rampa, Head of Programme, Sustainable Food Systems from the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), presented his keynote address “Unpacking the Policy, Research and Innovation Drivers for Agricultural Transformation Post COVID-19”. He shared his thoughts on the impact of the current COVID pandemic on the sustainable food systems transition and highlighted the need for a Food Systems Approach in agricultural research and development.

Mr Edouard Lehmann, Research and Innovation Manager, from the Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP) presented the second keynote. In his contribution, Mr Lehmann elaborated on the role of the private sector in fostering innovation, by sharing experiences from several of COLECAP’s projects in which the organisation served as an innovation broker.

Mr Christophe Larose, Head of Sustainable Agriculture, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG-DEVCO), finally stressed the contribution EFARD can make in the context of the EU Development Cooperation Agenda for Agricultural Transformation.

In the business session, members endorsed the 2020-2022 management team. Dr. Dietrich Darr, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Germany, was endorsed as 2020-2022 EFARD Chair. Mrs Jennie van der Mheen, of Wageningen University and Research and former 2018-2020 EFARD Vice-Chair, will serve as EFARD Executive Secretary. Prof. Dr. Patrick Van Damme will continue to contribute to the TAP Capacity Development Expert Group and serve as EFARD representative to TAP.



Dietrich Darr

Dietrich Darr is Professor of Agribusiness at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Kleve, Germany. His primary research interests include the analysis of smallholders’ land use-related decision-making in the Global South; the role of neglected and underutilised species and forest products in local livelihoods and value chains; the diffusion of innovations in the agrifood processing industry. In addition to his research and teaching activities, he provides consulting services to companies and organisations in the agro-food sector and other clients.

Jennie van der Mheen is Manager International Cooperation Africa at Wageningen University and Research (WUR) in the Netherlands. Before her appointment at WUR, she worked as an independent consultant providing services to companies and producer organisations on sustainable value chains, and worked for a co-funding agency in the Netherlands that co-created development programs with local organisations in Africa. Prior to her work in the Netherlands she worked for 15 years in sustainable agriculture programmes that were implemented in various African countries.



Jennie van der Mheen

GFRAS

Workshop on Customisation of GFRAS-NELK Module on facilitation for development to the Bangladesh context

On 26 September 2020, the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) in collaboration with the Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESAs) and the Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network organised a workshop to customise the GFRAS-New Extensionist Learning Kit Module on Facilitation for Development for the Bangladesh context. Based on the inputs from the trainers who participated in this workshop, a new module on facilitation for development customised to the Bangladesh context will be developed and will be available by the end of 2020.



Training Workshop participants

The GFRAS Online Annual Meeting “Preparing Advisers for Digital Era”

The 11th Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) Annual Meeting, the 59th Internationale Akademie für ländliche Beratung (IALB) and 9th European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services (EUFRAS) Conference, on the topic of "Preparing Advisers for the Digital Era" which took place as an online event from 5 to 8 October 2020. The Annual Meeting was co-organised by the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre (LRATC), EUFRAS, IALB and the South-Eastern Europe Advisory Service Network (SEASN). Building on the experience of previous GFRAS, IALB and EUFRAS events and activities as well as the expertise, knowledge and experiences of experts worldwide, the three themes of the 2020 conference held on 5 and 6 October 2020 were:

- How can rural Advisors become the farmers’ ‘digital partner’ in order to maximise the Agricultural Knowledge and Information Systems (AKIS) digital benefit for both;
- How can advisors share experience, insights and motivations in order to leverage the digitisation among the wider AKIS; and
- Can digitisation create greater flexibility and work capacity for rural advisors without leaving farmers behind.

The conference was a participatory learning event with a range of different types of sessions, including keynotes, panels, presentations in plenary, group work in parallel workshops and virtual field trips. Despite the implementation as an online event, participants were given a range of opportunities to provide inputs. Please see recordings of the first-day and second-day sessions at the plenary.



JIRCAS

JIRCAS Celebrates 50th Anniversary in 2020

The Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) was established in 1970 as the Tropical Agriculture Research Center and celebrates its 50th anniversary this year (2020).

In the last five decades, JIRCAS has been conducting international joint research in the developing regions through interdisciplinary cooperation in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and has contributed directly in solving the problems of partner countries and regions.

To commemorate this milestone, an international symposium with the theme “The role of international collaboration in agricultural research to address challenges in the post-COVID-19 global food system” will be held in a webinar format on Tuesday, 10 November 2020 from 15:00 to 17:30 (JST). A commemorative magazine that highlights the research achievements will also be issued this year. <https://www.jircas.go.jp/en/>



FAO

World Food Day 2020

This year FAO celebrated the World Food Day 2020 on 16 October 2020 during an exceptional time when many countries are dealing with the widespread impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the theme “Grow, nourish, sustain. Together. Our actions are our future”, the World Food Day 2020 called for more resilient and robust agri-food systems and for global solidarity, both vital for our recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, and for re-building.



The Day provided an opportunity to thank Food Heroes – farmers and workers throughout the food supply chain – who, no matter the circumstances, continue to provide food to their communities and beyond. In this occasion, the role of innovation in support of small farmers and sustainable food systems was highlighted and innovation stories were shared [here](#), including FAO’s work on innovation in the context of the Tropical Agriculture Platform (read the full news [here](#)).

TAP-AIS project (EC Support Programme to TAP)

Inception workshops held in Eritrea, Cambodia and Burkina Faso

The National Inception workshop of the TAP-AIS project was held in Asmara, Eritrea, on 17 September 2020, with a mix of virtual and in-presence participation. Thirty-one representatives of the main institutions operating in the Agricultural Innovation System in Eritrea, took part in the half day meeting. Mr Saeed A. Bantie, FAO Country Representative (FAOR) Eritrea, Mr Gabriel Lonte, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation in Eritrea and Mr Semere Amlesom, Senior Advisor of the Minister of Agriculture opened the meeting and highlighted the importance of this project and alignment with Ministry of Agriculture 2019 – 2023 development plan.

Mr Semere Zaid presented the one-month assessment (stocktaking) report on the AIS in Eritrea. In his presentation, he highlighted 20 major climate smart innovations with brief explanations, some of which were: conservation agriculture; energy saving ‘Adhanet mogogo’; tree species / provenance selection; agroforestry practices; integrated watershed management; development of stress tolerant crops; MIHAP (Minimum Integrated Household Agricultural Package); hydroponics; forest area enclosure; restoration of degraded land; post-harvest, management (silo); fodder production.

Overall constraints for the scaling up of ten of these technologies were analysed. Mr Seyoum Haile, Country Project Manager, presented the project implementation plan and participants raised questions for further clarification.



Meeting participants in Eritrea

In Cambodia, the National Inception Workshop took place on 21 October 2020 in Phnom Penh. The Inception Workshop was presided by H.E. Ho Puthea, Deputy Director of General Directorate of Agriculture, Mr Antonio Schiavone Head of Operation, FAO Country Representative (FAOR) Cambodia, and Dr. Youdy Jasmit Regional Representative of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Cambodia. It was attended by 50 participants from key stakeholder organizations such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MoWRM), research institutions, education and training universities, agriculture cooperatives, farmers and NGOs.

During the meeting findings of the stocktaking report were presented and experiences among the key AIS actors and development partners were shared. Priority needs and project entry points were identified.



Meeting participants in Cambodia

The National Inception Workshop of the TAP-AIS project was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 22 October 2020. The workshop brought together thirty representatives of key pillar-AIS organizations and important resource people such as Mr François Lompo, former Minister of Agriculture and other Director Generals in charge of Rural Development, Research and Education.

The Inception Workshop aimed at:

- presenting the overall strengths and weaknesses of the national agricultural innovation system;
- the on going initiatives to develop and coordinate innovation support services;
- and developing the Theory of Change of the TAP-AIS project.

The participants appreciated the general approach of the project, as put forward by Mr Lompo, former Minister of Agriculture, 'it starts from the results of the CDAIS project (2015-2019) and which builds on the on going initiatives at the national level to co-design innovative actions for the strengthening of the current agricultural innovation system, while linking with climate change issues'.

In addition, the methodology for a participatory and action-oriented assessment of the national AIS was introduced to the participants by the Centre D'etudes, De Documentation Et De Recherche Économiques Et Sociales (CEDRES), University of Ouagadougou, who are in charge of the implementation. The Directorate General of Scientific Research and Innovation (DGRSI) underlined 'the importance to provide information and evidence to policy makers on the current state of the AIS and possible leveraging actions to strengthen it'. The process of the assessment will be closely monitored and supported by the project Technical Monitoring Committee and key AIS actors. The Inception Workshop was used as a first opportunity, on a participatory base, to identify a set of indicators to measure the AIS functions.



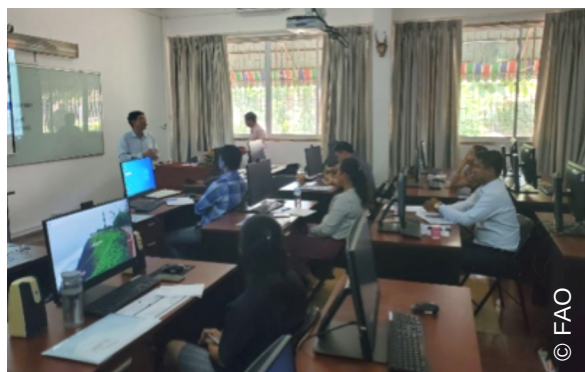
TAP-AIS Technical/Monitoring Committee

Virtual training on AIS Assessment

Between September and October 2020, training sessions on AIS assessment were organised in Burkina Faso, Cambodia and Eritrea by the country teams with support from FAO HQ staff. The AIS assessment training focused on building four main assessment blocks:

- Structural
- Functional
- Capacity
- Enabling Environment analysis.

The sessions were organised virtually, combining presentations and group work/exercises through which assessment team members could familiarise with main concepts of AIS, the different types of analysis and specific tools to be used during the implementation. Ten people in each country attended the training giving positive feedback. Follow up sessions will be organised in Eritrea on 2-5 November 2020 to provide more in-depth guidance on how to conduct the different analyses



Virtual training sessions - Cambodia



NEW PUBLICATIONS

Biological Pest Control Contribute to Agricultural Development in the Asia-Pacific Region

Agriculture is a mainstay industry for many countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Over the past half century, the region's total output of agricultural products has been growing at an average annual rate of 3.8%, and now accounts for about 50% of the world's total agricultural products. For emerging economies in the Asia-Pacific region, the healthy development of agriculture is an essential basis for maintaining steady and healthy development of the economy.



On 31 August 2020, scientists from the IPP-CAAS and Zhejiang University in collaboration with experts from multiple countries

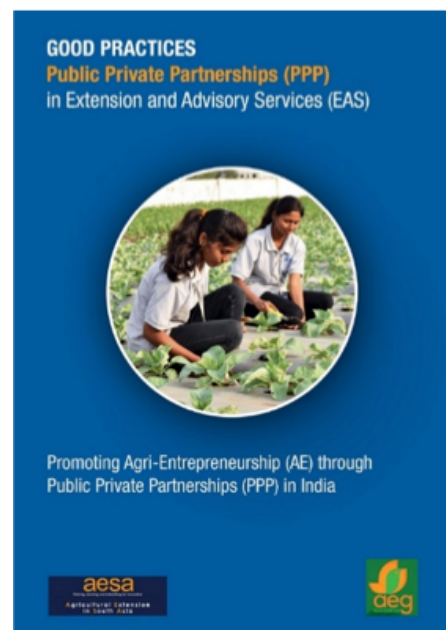
published a paper titled "Ecological pest control fortifies agricultural growth in Asia-Pacific economies" in Nature Ecology and Evolution (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-020-01294-y>). This paper systematically elucidated the important role of biological control of crop pests in agricultural development in the Asia-Pacific region over the past 100 years.

Good Practices: Public Private Partnerships in Extension and Advisory Services. Promoting Agri-Entrepreneurship (AE) Through Public-Private Partnership (PP) In India

Provision of advice and other services related to farming at the village level is critical for enhancing the incomes of small and marginal farmers. Creation of an eco-system that can support the emergence of agri-entrepreneurs through delivery of these services at the village level is the only way forward if we are to achieve the enhancement of farm incomes.

In this Good Practices Note, Mr S. Baskar Reddy, Mr Rajendra Jog, Ms Parikrama Chowdhry and Mr Aravind Thumbur reflect on their experiences in developing and scaling up a model of agri-entrepreneurship by forging partnerships with a number of agencies.

<https://www.aesanetwork.org/news/good-practices-public-private-partnerships-in-extension-and-advisory-services/>



 PAST EVENTS

FAO/AGREENIUM WEBINARS: SEASON 2 SCHEDULED FOR AUTUMN 2020

- Following the success of the webinars, last spring, jointly organised by FAO, Agreenium and the UN - Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), attended by more than 2 700 participants worldwide, a new programme was launched for September-December 2020. These webinars allow Agreenium, FAO and UNESCAP experts to discuss topics of high international relevance, in relation to the objectives of sustainable development.

Recordings of past webinars are available here:

- Sustainable Food Systems and nutrition, 16 September 2020 (<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=594>)
- Forest Data and Transparency: "Zoom in" on the Experience of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 23 September 2020 (<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=606>)
- Water management, 30 September 2020 (<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=607>)
- Home-Grown school feeding, 21 October 2020 (<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=619>)
- Preventing and mitigating land degradation, 28 October 2020 (<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=620>)



 **UPCOMING WEBINARS**

- **OPEN AND TRANSPARENT FOREST DATA: INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY FOR CLIMATE ACTION**, 11 NOVEMBER 2020 ([HTTPS://ELEARNING.FAO.ORG/COURSE/VIEW.PHP?ID=627](https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=627))
- **LOWTECH**, 16 DECEMBER 2020 (TO BE ANNOUNCED [HERE](#))



INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL WEBINAR

Open and Transparent Forest Data: Innovation and Technology for Climate Action

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2020
14:30 - 16:00 CEST (ROME TIME)

elearning.fao.org

Contact the TAP Secretariat

TAP is a G-20 initiative launched in 2012 to promote agricultural innovation in the tropics. TAP has formed a coalition of more than 40 partners. Its main goal is to strengthen agricultural innovation systems (AIS) in developing countries through coordinated multi-stakeholder interventions.

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