

Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESA) organized webinars and published several outputs during April-September 2020.

COVID-19 & EAS

AESA created a dedicated section on COVID-19 & EAS on its website for showcasing the role played by Extension and Advisory Services (EAS) in supporting farmers to adapt to COVID-19. Farmers faced many challenges in accessing input and output markets, and harvesting and transporting their produce during the lockdown imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19. AESA published 24 blogs and 12 Field Notes – specifically on how EAS responded to these issues.



AESA participated in the webinar on mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on the agricultural value chain co-organised by Value Chain Capacity Building Network (VCB-N) in collaboration with Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS), IFAD, Helvetas and Hivos on 15 May 2020. AESA also participated in a webinar co-organised by FAO's Research and Extension Unit in collaboration with GFRAS to discuss the role of EAS in the context of the pandemic in Asia on 19 May 2020, and shared experiences from South Asia.

Research and Extension Unit (AGDR) at FAO presents a webinar on:
EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES:
at frontline of COVID-19 response ensuring food security in Asia




Tuesday, 19th May 2020
At 8:30 in Rome 14:30 in Beijing, 12:00 in New Delhi time, 13:30 in Vientiane, 16:30 in Sydney

Knowledge Management


AESA, through its website, published a series of Good Practices on Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in EAS, 27 blogs, 10 good practices notes, two book reviews, and two meeting notes during this period. The AESA Facebook group currently has more than 20,878 members. We are using the Facebook group, Linked in group, Twitter handle, and the AESA email list to promote the exchange of knowledge on agricultural extension and advisory services. AESA is also handling knowledge management functions of the Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS). We have created a new section on COVID-19 on the APIRAS website (www.apiras.net), and published five relevant blogs and populated this section with appropriate news, opinions and publications.

GOOD PRACTICES
Public Private Partnerships (PPP)
in Extension and Advisory Services (EAS)



Promoting Agri-Entrepreneurship (AE) through
Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in India

aesa
Agricultural Extension in South Asia



Capacity Development

AESA co-organised an Editor Talk Series, with Editors of High Impact Journals in Social Sciences in July 2020. Dr. Val Snow and Dr. Kristin Davis, Editors-in-Chief of Agricultural Systems, and Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension, respectively, spoke in this series. This was organized in collaboration with ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CTCRI), National Institute for Agricultural and Extension Management (MANAGE), and Centre for Research on Innovation and Science Policy (CRISP).



Workshops

AESA participated in the online workshop on Global Learning Needs Assessment (GLNA): Integrating Nutrition into Extension and Advisory Services, from 22 June to 01 July 2020, co-organised by FAO and GFRAS.

Competitions

AESA co-organised a Photo Contest on the occasion of World Milk Day in collaboration with Indian Veterinary Extension Forum (IVEF). Result of the photo contest was declared on 01 June 2020. We received 89 entries and the first prize went to Dr. CK Faslu Rahman, ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI).



GFRAS-YPARD Competition Coping with COVID-19: Stories from the Field

Students Come to the Rescue of Farmers Affected by COVID-19

By Nishat Salsabil Khan

In Bangladesh the lockdown due to COVID-19 spread has disrupted the agricultural value chains. Though there are some relaxations in the lockdown guidelines for agriculture, lack of sufficient labour and machineries impacted paddy harvesting. In this situation, the students of different Universities, Colleges and Schools of Bangladesh have come forward to support farmers.



BANGLADESH - 1st Place Youth Category

In Sherpur, a truly highlighted and praiseworthy step is the formation of a voluntary forum with some enthusiastic students naming, "Student Community Policing Forum". The initiative of the forum was taken by Bangladesh Police and also are being supervised by them. At present 300 volunteers are active in this forum. They have also taken part in harvesting activities. They have harvested around 10 acres of land with 50 volunteers working daily for one week.

Ms. Nishat Salsabil Khan from Bangladesh received the first prize in the youth category in the GFRAS-Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) Competition on Coping with COVID-19: Stories from the Field. AESA supported this competition by forming a committee for promoting the competition, screening the entries from Bangladesh, and selecting the winners.

**AESA Secretariat: Centre for Research on Innovation and Science Policy (CRISP),
Road No 10, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034, India
www.aesanetwork.org Email: aesanetwork@gmail.com**