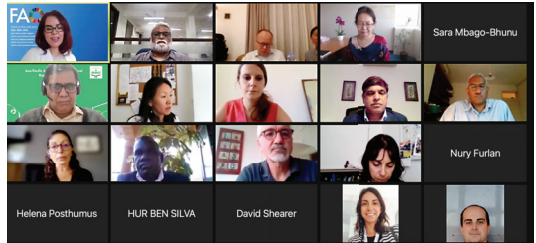


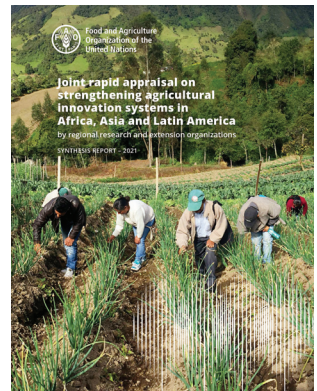
Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESA) formulated its five-year Strategic Plan, participated in webinars, and published several items from March to September 2021.

### Capacity Development

AESA represented APIRAS at the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) side event on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS)- Lessons learnt and future action of the TAP partnership on 5 July 2021, as part of the Science Days of the UN Food Systems Summit 2021. Regional research and extension organizations including Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services (APIRAS) Network highlighted their efforts at integrating TAP tools and approaches into their work, and shared some lessons learnt through their collaboration within the context of the TAP-AIS project.



AESA also represented APIRAS at the Global Webinar organised by FAO on the launch of the report 'Joint Rapid Appraisal on Strengthening Agricultural Innovations Systems in Africa, Asia and Latin America' on 12 August 2021.



AESA participated in the Developing Local Extension Capacity (DLEC) Community of Practice event on 22 April 2021, and gave a lightning talk on 'Customization of NELK module on facilitation for development in Bangladesh'. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE and AESA focal point, also conducted a training session on 'eExtension' at the same event. AESA also participated in a virtual dialogue organised by Commission on Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (CoSAI) and APAARI on 'The innovation investment landscape and future food systems' on 28 September 2021.

### Webinar on Agroecology and EAS

The Network of Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services in Sri Lanka (NAEASSL) organised a special lecture by G.V. Ramanjaneyulu, Executive Director, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (CSA), India, on 25 August 2021. He shared his experiences on promoting Agroecological Farming from India at the webinar. Ramanjaneyulu and Souvanthong Namvong, Deputy Head, Division for Agriculture Information and National Project Director for Lao Upland Rural Advisory Services, and focal point Mekong Extension Learning Alliance (MELA), shared experiences in promoting agro-ecology in India and Laos, respectively, and its implications for extension in the GFRAS Webinar on Agroecology and Extension on 25 May 2021.

## Policy Dialogue

Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN) under the IFAD-funded Last Mile Programme (LMP), organized a Dialogue on 'Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Policy and



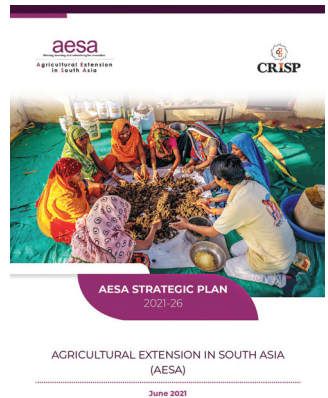
its role in Agricultural Extension' on 25 September 2021, at Dhaka, Bangladesh. It discussed the draft findings from the recent analysis conducted by BAEN on PPPs in Agricultural Extension in Bangladesh and charted potential ways forward for strengthening PPP initiatives to reach farmers at the last mile with advice and services.

## Networking

AESA held a virtual Governance Board Meeting on 8 May 2021. The Board reviewed the progress of AESA and discussed the draft AESA Strategic Plan (2021-2026). The meeting had participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, SAARC Agricultural Centre and AESA Secretariat. The Strategic Plan was finalised based on the comments and suggestions from this meeting. Siti Amanah, Focal Point, RAS-SEA, was elected as the new Chair of APIRAS ([www.apiras.net](http://www.apiras.net)) Network Steering Committee (SC) during the APIRAS SC meeting held on 24 May 2021. Siti is Associate Professor and Vice-Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, Faculty of Human Ecology (FEMA)-IPB University, Indonesia. AESA is currently managing the APIRAS Network.

## Knowledge Management

AESA, through its website, published 16 blogs, six good practice notes, four book reviews, three meeting notes, and one face-to-face interview during this period. AESA also published the Guidance Note on 'Customization of NELK Module – Facilitation for Development in Bangladesh', in April 2021.



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