

From March to September 2025, Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESA) organised training sessions and workshops, participated in webinars and meetings, and strengthened country forums, while also publishing various Knowledge Products (KPs).

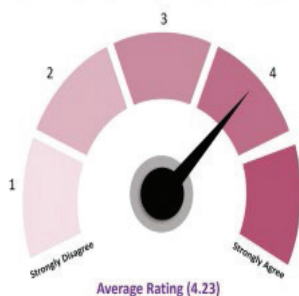
Knowledge Management

AESA disseminated a range of KPs, including fifteen blogs, five good practice notes, three book reviews, seven course reviews, five meeting notes, and four face-to-face interviews. Recently, it launched a new section on Policy Briefs on its web portal to further enrich policy engagement. Multiple social media channels, including Facebook, LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter), WhatsApp, and Instagram, as well as its email list, are utilised by AESA to facilitate knowledge exchange on various themes. Additionally, AESA spearheads knowledge management for the Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS), accessible at www.apiras.net.

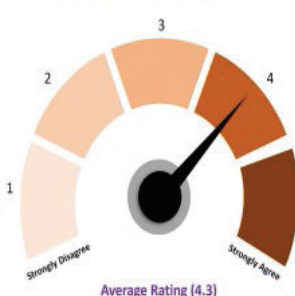
AESA Reader Survey

AESA initiated a Reader Insights Survey during January 2025 to understand the preferences, levels of engagement, and expectations of its knowledge users. The results of this survey were published in June after analysing responses from 173 participants. It highlights that knowledge users of AESA are young and actively involved, particularly in Agricultural Extension, primarily based in South Asia but increasingly represented in Africa and Southeast Asia. They are highly appreciative of AESA's knowledge products and find the website user-friendly and accessible, and eager to contribute. Many expressed interest in sharing knowledge and volunteering for AESA initiatives.

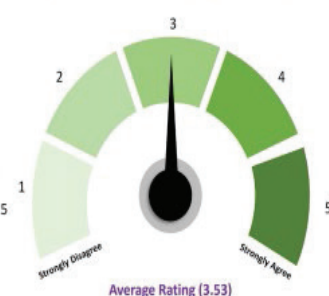
Usefulness of Knowledge Products



Ease of Navigation



Social Media Engagement



Capacity Development

The Network of Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Sri Lanka (NAEASSL) organised a farmer training programme on May 10, 2025, in Kandy under the project “Building Capacity for Climate Resilience and Organic Farming among Vegetable and Fruit Growers in Sri Lanka.” The project, implemented in collaboration with the World Vegetable Centre, MicroSave Consulting, and John Keells Holdings Plc, aims to reach around 2,000 farmers. Its focus is on enhancing knowledge and practices related to climate-resilient agriculture, including the promotion of Integrated Pest Management.



Md. Afzal Hossain Bhuiyan, Organising Secretary of the Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN), participated in the Gender Technical Working Group meeting organised by CABI in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on September 2, 2025. The Working Group aims to support the integration of gender equity in EAS and agricultural development through stakeholder collaboration, capacity building, and technical dialogue.



Webinar

AESA and APIRAS organised a webinar on “Exploring Global Opportunities in Agri-Food Extension” on July 23, 2025, to inform the AESA community on opportunities in higher studies and career options in Canada. Featuring speakers from the University of Guelph, the Government of Manitoba, the Government of Bangladesh, and the University of Jaffna, the event provided participants with insights into graduate programs, scholarships, and professional roles in agri-food systems while comparing experiences from Canada and South Asia.

aesa
Agricultural Extension
in South Asia

APIRAS
Agri-Food Policy Institute for Rural Advancement

Higher Studies and Career Opportunities in Agri-food Extension and Advisory in Canada

23rd July 2025
07:00pm (IST)
Google Meet

Scan here to
REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

Our Speakers

Atahnd Chowdhury
Associate Professor
University of Guelph

Edward Kusi Asafo-Adgyei
Senior Policy and Programme
Analyst, Government of Manitoba,
Canada (recently graduated from
the MSc CDE programme,
University of Guelph)

Sufiana Yasmin
Ministry of Social Welfare
in Bangladesh and MSc
CDE student, University
of Guelph

Kamshajini Rajendran
Lecturer
University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka
and MSc CDE student,
University of Guelph

The webinar highlighted the importance of strengthening international collaboration and encouraged students and professionals to explore global opportunities in agri-food extension and advisory services.

Outreach

AESA supported several training programmes and workshops during this period. These include:

- The Training-Workshop on Transformational Agricultural Innovation Systems for the New Futures (TrAIInS), organised by the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) and APIRAS (16-20 June 2025);
- Consultation Workshop on Post Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Extension Management (PGDAEM) Course Curricula, organised by the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) (26-27 June 2025);
- Induction Training Programme for newly recruited Assistant Professors of Kerala Agricultural University (6 August 2025);
- 2nd Meeting of the Arab Forum for Rural Advisory Services (AFRAS) organised at Cairo (25-27 August 2025)
- National Young Professional Development Programme organised by MANAGE and the Anand Agricultural University (25 September 2025); and

- 4th Biennial Rural Advisory Services in Southeast Asia (RASSEA) Meeting (26 September 2025).

Partnership

This period marks a new strategic partnership initiated by CRISP, the host of the AESA Secretariat, with the ICAR–Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Zone X, Hyderabad, India, through a formal MoU. This collaboration aims to strengthen agricultural extension across 72 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) or farm science centres in Zone X, spread across four Indian states. Jointly, through the AESA platform, the collaborators will promote training and capacity building for KVK staff, advance research in extension management, curate good practices, and organise joint outreach and knowledge-sharing programmes.



Technical support

AESA, on behalf of APIRAS, is supporting the AFACI-funded RATES project (Improvement of Rural Agricultural Technology Extension System in Asia). In 2025, AESA contributed to implementation in Bhutan (14–18 April) and Thailand (26–28 July) through review meetings and field visits, while also helping to develop knowledge products (KPs) under this collaboration.



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