

Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESAs) organised trainings and workshops, participated in webinars, and published several outputs from March to September 2026.

AESA Volunteer Programme (AVP)

The first cohort of the AVP marked the start of a structured approach to engaging young professionals and emerging practitioners to strengthen AESA's digital outreach and knowledge sharing. More than 30 volunteers joined the programme, of whom 11 completed Level 1 by fulfilling all programme requirements and receiving certification and



public recognition during the three-month engagement period. All 11 Level 1 completers also expressed interest in progressing to Level 2 – Knowledge and Events Volunteers, while continuing their Level 1 responsibilities. This demonstrates their sustained interest in contributing to AESA and provides a pathway for deeper engagement through knowledge contributions, event support and greater responsibility. Overall, Cohort 1 established the foundation for AVP as a participatory volunteer model that combines digital outreach, professional learning, networking, and progressive contribution to AESA.

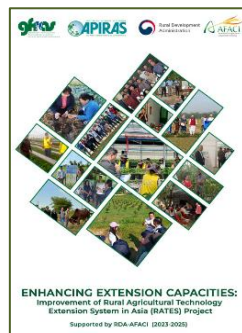
Level 1 focused on Social Media and Editorial roles, with volunteers serving as digital champions for AESA. Following an orientation to AESA, its knowledge resources and communication platforms, volunteers were expected to contribute approximately 3–4 hours per week alongside their academic or professional commitments.

Volunteers supported the promotion of AESA's blogs, Good Practices Notes, and other knowledge products through LinkedIn, Facebook, X and WhatsApp. They also identified relevant professional networks and sectoral groups to expand the reach of AESA resources, while contributing to content curation, *AESA Suggests*, and communication materials such as posters and carousels.

A key feature of Cohort 1 was learning through doing. Volunteers were encouraged to take initiative, explore AESA resources, develop content and engage with wider professional networks. Several volunteers also shared their experiences and learning on LinkedIn, increasing the programme's visibility.

Knowledge Management

AESA published twenty-four blogs, nine Good Practices Notes, four Book Reviews, seven course reviews, twelve Meeting Notes, and one Face-to-face interview from April to September 2026. AESA also uses Facebook, LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter), a WhatsApp channel, Instagram, and its email list to promote the exchange of knowledge on extension and advisory services (EAS). AESA is also handling knowledge management functions of APIRAS (www.apiras.net).



A paper synthesising experiences from the project “Improvement of Rural Agricultural Technology Extension System in Asia (RATES)”, which was implemented during 2023-2025 in 12 Asian Countries with the support of the Rural Development Administration (RDA)-Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (AFACI), was also published.

Webinar: Enhancing Capacities of Next Generation Extensionists in India

On 16 July 2026, AESA co-organised and shared about its work on strengthening agricultural extension and advisory services in India at the GFRAS 2026 Knowledge Sharing Webinar Series on enhancing capacities of next-generation extensionists in India.



In this webinar jointly organised by GFRAS, MANAGE, AESA and CRISP, Dr Rasheed Sulaiman V (CRISP/AESA) and Dr Saravanan Raj (MANAGE) presented their experiences in strengthening the capacities of young extensionists through innovative approaches to professional development, experiential learning, and knowledge management.

Capacity Development

AESA has also supported MANAGE's National Young Professionals Development Programme (NYPDP), held in June and September 2026, by conducting specific sessions. On 7 May 2026, Dr Rasheed Sulaiman V interacted with extension students and faculty at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka during a guest lecture on “Evolving Extension: Functions, Approaches, and Systems in Developing Contexts,” delivered online via Zoom.

**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**