



Overview

8 May 2021

AESA Governance Board Meeting

Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS)

www.g-fras.org

- Established in 2010
- **Strengthen pluralistic demand-driven Extension and Advisory Services (EAS)/RAS**
 - Policy advocacy
 - Learning
 - Networking
 - **Support:** Mainly SDC, USAID
 - IFAD, GIZ, EU
 - **Previously Steering Committee/**
 - **Now GFRAS Board and General Assembly**
 - **AESA is represented in the Board almost since the beginning**
 - **Host:** Agridea, Switzerland/FiBL, Switzerland

Impact Stories

How GFRAS promotes advocacy and leadership in rural advisory services for sustainable development

GFRAS is proud to share its "Impact Stories" document. This is a study collecting and describing several real-life examples that illustrate some of the different ways in which the GFRAS network adds value to the work of local actors and ongoing initiatives, with the aim of benefiting the lives and livelihoods of smallholder farmers around the globe.

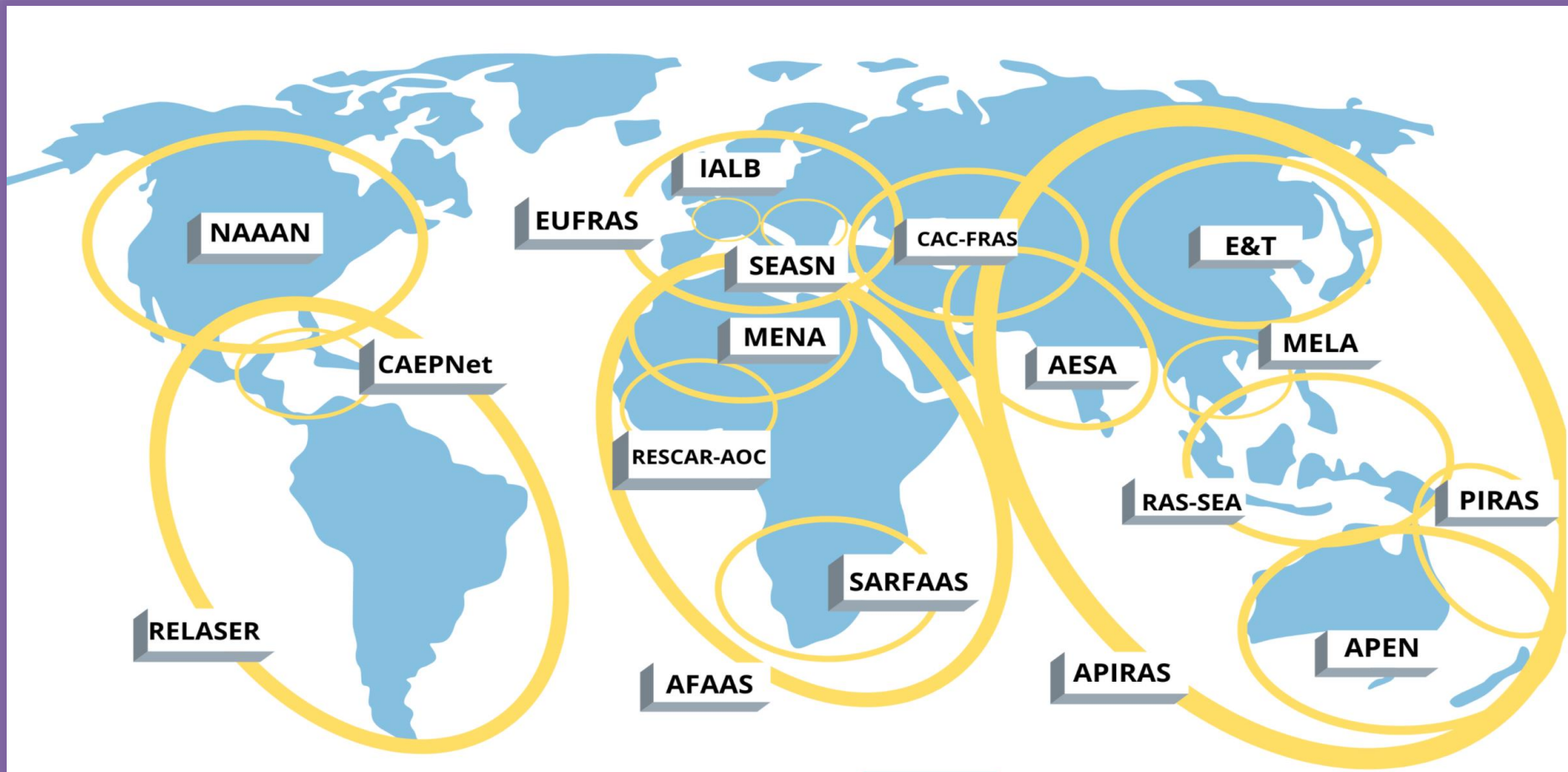
You can download it [here](#).

Adding
Value to
Local Action

How GFRAS promotes
advocacy and leadership in
rural advisory services for
sustainable development



GFRAS Networks



AESA-First Face to Face Meeting

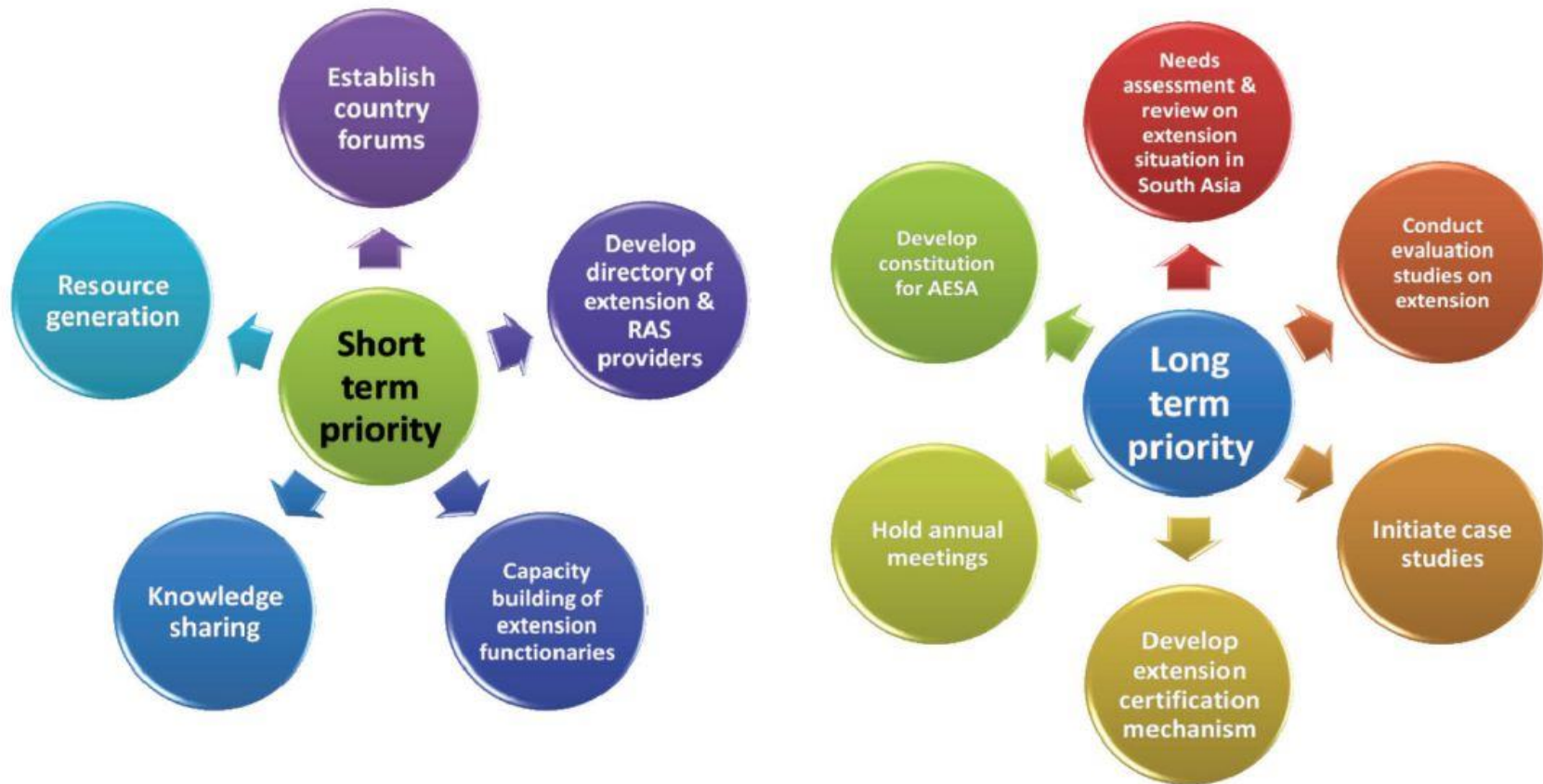
- Face to face meeting
- (14-15 Jan 2014),
Kathmandu, Nepal
- 28 participants
- (7 countries)
- Identified Focal points in
each country:
- 2013-16 SDC Funding



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Priorities-Short and Long term



Initial Website and facebook Group



Establishment of Country Fora

INDIA

- India Extension Network (26 August 2014)

BANGLADESH

- Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (1 Sept 2014)

PAKISTAN

- Pakistan Extension Network (1 Sept 2015)

SRI LANKA

- NAEASSL iemerged as a network in 2019

NEPAL

- Engagement with the NAEA



Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) of EAS

ASSESSING CAPACITY NEEDS OF
EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES
A Guide for Facilitators

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CNA in 4 Countries

- India- October 2015
- Sri Lanka- Feb 2016
- Bangladesh- Feb 2016
- Nepal- May 2016

- **Publication of Policy brief on prioritized CN**
- **Published Facilitators Guide for CNA of EAS Providers**

Training young research scholars/Faculty

- **Training on Good Practices in Extension Research and Evaluation**
- **Published a Manual**

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Agricultural Extension in South Asia

Policy Brief
No.1 July 2016

Capacity Needs of Extension and Advisory Services (EAS) in South Asia

INTRODUCTION

About 80% of South Asia's poor live in rural areas. Most depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Agricultural and rural development is the key to eradicating poverty and creating conditions for sustainable and equitable growth in the region. South Asian agriculture faces several new challenges ranging from deteriorating natural resources base, climate change and increasing de-regulation of trade. Moreover, the sector is dominated by small farmers often with weak bargaining powers and limited political voice.

A pluralistic and demand driven extension provision, that offers a much broader support to rural producers, is critical for agricultural development and poverty reduction in South Asia. Commitment to pluralism is central to the discussion on extension reform as it is now widely accepted that no single actor or agency is best placed to offer the wide range of services required by the rural communities. Though South Asian countries have a long history of organizing and reforming extension services, much more needs to be done to strengthen their capacities to deal with the rapidly evolving challenges in agriculture.

One of the major priorities identified during the first meeting of the AESA Agricultural Extension in South Asia network was capacity development of EAS providers. The first step in this direction was to assess the capacity gaps among the EAS through undertaking a capacity needs assessment at the national level in select countries in the region.

CAPACITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF EAS

Undertaking Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) is critical for organizing appropriate capacity development interventions. Lack of a clearly articulated list of core competencies for EAS adversely affects the recruitment of new staff, professional development of existing staff and also the quality of professional education in extension.

Extension and Advisory Services in South Asia

Public sector extension continues to dominate extension provision everywhere. Extension is dominated by a large state of Regional Offices. Most countries with the exception of Maldives and Bhutan have specialized extension systems. RDOs, input companies, agribusiness firms, producer organizations, micro-finance institutions, universities and research centers do contribute to extension services. It is especially notable that there are increasingly used for disseminating information and advice to producers. Extension is gradually weak and less vibrant in the border and hillside areas. One of the eight countries in the region implemented the Training and Field (TRF) System of extension during the 1980s. Subsequent reforms focusing mainly on reduction of extension from the national level to lower levels (provinces and districts) led to reduced extension by way of de-linking from extension agent roles, weakening links with research and loss of political and financial support.

Approaches such as market-led extension and public-private partnerships are experimented in many countries. Almost every country faces the following set of challenges in extension delivery: lack of adequate number of extension staff, limited funding, weak linkages with research, lack of coordination and collaboration among multiple extension providers, lack of adequate capacity among extension staff and lack of professionalism in extension. Policies related to human resource development as well as certification and standards in extension provision are lacking everywhere (AESA, 2014).

The "New Extensionist"

The Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) has articulated a new vision for Extension and Advisory Services (EAS) within the Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS). The vision behind the development of the "New Extensionist" comes from the realization that the existing EAS need new capabilities to respond effectively to the emerging challenges in agricultural development (defining water availability, increasing soil degradation, and changing and uncertain climate and markets). In the past few years, capacities in EAS to perform their traditional roles such as training and dissemination of technical information have eroded. Moreover, the extension knowledge has become increasingly pluralistic with greater participation of the private sector. All these demand new knowledge, skills, and expertise among EAS providers.

The "New Extensionist" argues for an expanded role for EAS within the AIS and development of new capabilities at the field, local, and system levels. It recognizes that the wide range of skills needed for agricultural innovation and the growing number of actors involved necessitates building new capacities (GFRAS, 2015).

www.aesa-gfras.net



**MANUAL ON
GOOD PRACTICES IN EXTENSION
RESEARCH & EVALUATION**

Regression
Qualitative Extension
Methods Thematic Analysis Designs
Standard Deviation Descriptive Validity
Learning Management Reliability Tools
Ethics Research Margin of Error
Journals Diffusion
Modeling Monitoring Constructs
Policy Implications Impact Assessment
Experimental Variance Evaluation
Inference Case Study Variables
Replication Psychometrics

Governance Board Meeting

13 Feb 2016 Kandy, Sri Lanka

Reviewed progress,

Took several decisions to strengthen AESA



(2016-2019)

- IFAD Support to 3 Networks under APIRAS including AESA
- **Bangladesh, Fiji and Philippines**

5 KEY COMPONENTS:

- Capacity Assessment of Network
- Capacity Strengthening of EAS
- Knowledge Management
- Policy Dialogues



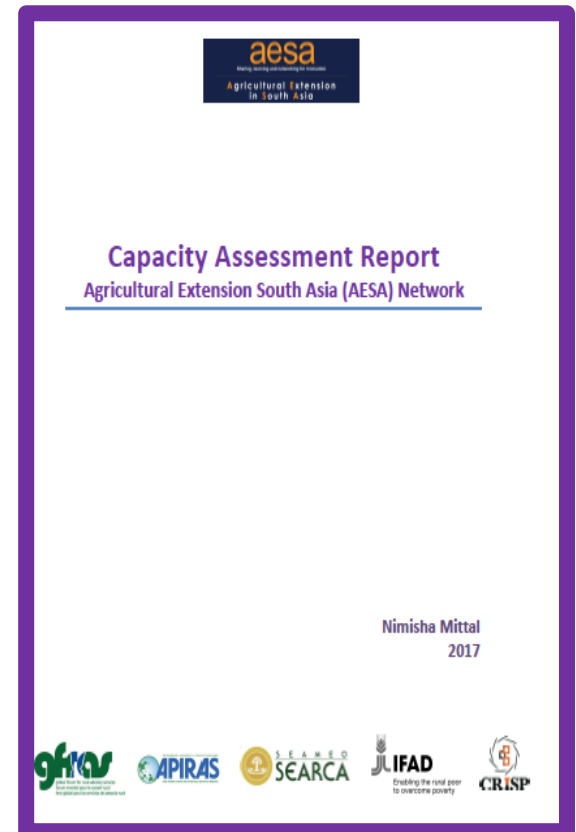
AESA Capacity Assessment & GB Meeting



Conducted Online Capacity Assessment (CA) of AESA-2017

Validated the findings of CA at the AESA governance board meeting, **Kathmandu, July 2017**

CA Report and Proceedings of the Governance Meet available on AESA website



Network Strengthening

BAEN Consultation and Planning
Workshop **Bangladesh**(April 2017)

1st meeting of the National Network of
Agricultural Extension and Advisory
Services in Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka (November 2017)

Participation in year end SAAS Project
Review **Bangladesh** (July 2018)



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MANAGE, India

Promotion of the NELK, Curricula development for Indian Universities

MANAGE/ICAR-CTCRI/SM Sehgal Foundation

Trainings on strengthening research in extension

IRRI South Asia Regional Centre

Policy Dialogue-I- CSA and EAS, October 2018, Sri Lanka

SIAS, Nepal

Policy Dialogue -II–Extension under federal Nepal April 2019, Nepal



Improved Individual Capacities

Curricula Reforms-AESA- MANAGE-ICAR development of new extension curricula approved July 2018-March 2019

NELK Promotion (India & Bangladesh)

Training on **Writing Good Practice Notes** on EAS (Bangladesh)

Training on **Research Methods in Extension**-3 out 4 during SAAS project





TRAINING WORKSHOPS ON STRENGTHENING RESEARCH AND EVALUATION IN EXTENSION

29 November -2 December 2016, Hyderabad

7-12 August 2017, Trivandrum

4-8 March 2019, Delhi

10-14 June 2019, Bangalore

Training on the New Extensionist Learning Kit (NELK))

- Hyderabad, **INDIA**
5-6 Oct 2017
- Dhaka, **BANGLADESH**
10 March, 2018





Module 7: Introduction to Facilitation for Development



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Sharing, learning and networking for innovation
Agricultural Extension
in South Asia

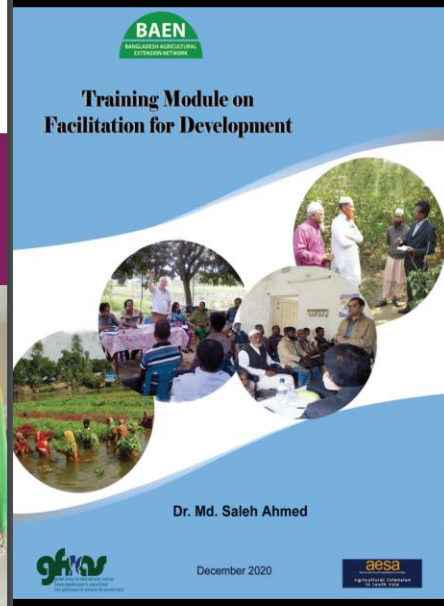


Guidance Note



Customization of NELK Module Facilitation for Development in Bangladesh

April 2021



Activities in Sri Lanka

Mentoring NAEASSL

- First country meeting of Sri Lanka National Network of Agricultural Extension and advisory Services, Peradeniya **22 November 2017**
- (NAEASSL) Workshop on Adoption of New Extensionist Approach in Advisory and Extension Services in Sri Lanka: In Collaboration with Coconut Cultivation Board (CCB), Sri Lanka, GFRAS and AESA (**31 October 2019**)
- NELK Training for officers of CCB, Colombo **28-30 October 2019**



Partnering with other initiatives in 2019

Agricultural Extension
in South Asia



National Workshop New Frontiers In Agricultural Extension

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural
Extension and Advisory Services

Centre for Research on Innovation and Science Policy (CRISP)

Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESAs)



Training Workshop on Scale Development in Social Sciences

(June 10-14, 2019)

Exogenous
Thurstone Hedonic
Marketing Latent CFA
Psychometrics
IRT
Extension Reliability Q-Sort
Intelligence Index
CTT
Latent Perception

Southern Regional Station

ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute

Adugodi, Bengaluru-560030, Karnataka

Policy dialogue



National Policy Dialogue on Agriculture Extension System in Federal Nepal

Tuesday, 9 April 2019
Green Hall, Hotel Himalaya, Kuopondole, Lalitpur, Nepal



Policy Brief

No. 2 June 2019

Agriculture Extension Service Delivery in Federal Nepal: Emerging Challenges and Way Forward

INTRODUCTION

The new Constitution of Nepal (2015) has initiated federal, provincial, and local governments in Nepal, each endowed with respective rights, responsibilities, powers and authority. While developing the new mechanism of governance, the Constitution has given immense authority as well as responsibility to local governments, which is unprecedented and has never been experienced before in the history of Nepal. Along with the restructuring of the state, the institutional mechanism of the agriculture sector has also been restructured. The agricultural extension service delivery system is currently trying to adjust to the changing institutional and policy context introduced by the new federal structure.

This brief discusses some of the challenges before Extension and Advisory Services (EAS) in Nepal as it tries to adjust to the new governance structure and proposes potential ways forward to strengthen EAS delivery. It also draws heavily on the outputs of the policy dialogue entitled 'Agricultural Extension System in Federal Nepal' jointly organized by the Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESa), the South Asia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) and the Nepal Policy Research Network (NPRN) on 9 April, 2019, at Kathmandu.

FEDERALISM IN NEPAL

Under the new Constitution, the untouchable development regions, zones, municipalities and village development committees have been dismantled and restructured into seven provinces and 753 local government units that include six metropolitan cities, 11 sub-metropolitan cities, 276 municipalities, and 460 rural municipalities. The number of districts has increased from 75 to 77; however, the districts remain administratively the same but with significant curtailment in power and authority. Along with this administrative restructuring, the governing mechanism has been changed as well.

One of the most notable changes in agricultural institutional reform has been the establishment of the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives in each province. Similarly, an Agriculture Knowledge Centre has replaced the District Agriculture Development Office (DADO)

and District Livestock Service Officers (DLSO) with significant reduction in their roles and responsibilities. Within each local government office, an Agriculture Development Division has been established. The current agriculture institutional mechanism in Nepal is illustrated in Figure 1.



Though farmers expected enhanced access to extension services and its better delivery, lack of clarity on the power, authority as well as roles and responsibilities at different levels has adversely affected the reach and impact of extension service delivery. This transitional stage has also thrown up multiple challenges in achieving the agricultural development goals envisioned in the Agriculture Development Strategy 2015.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Inconsistent Institutional Structure with Poor Communication Mechanism

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MADCLD), which is the apex body for agriculture development has been split and then merged time and again. Many previous units have been dismantled, merged, or restructured in their roles and responsibilities.

Policy dialogue



South Asia Policy Dialogue

Role of EAS in Scaling-up Climate Smart Agriculture

5 October 2018
Colombo, Sri Lanka

IRRI **aasa** **CRISP** **Policy Brief**
No. 3 June 2019

Extension and Advisory Services in Scaling up Climate Smart Agriculture in South Asia

CONTEXT

Mounting evidence points to the fact that climate change is already affecting agriculture and food security, which will therefore make the challenge of ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture even more difficult (FAO 2016). Through Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13, the 2030 Agenda calls for strengthened resilience and adaptive capacity in response to natural hazards and climate-related disasters globally. It calls on all countries to establish and operationalize an integrated strategy – one that includes food security and nutrition – to improve their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and to foster climate resilience and lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions without jeopardizing food production (FAO et al. 2018).

World Bank (2018) noted that almost half the South Asian population (800 million to be exact) are at risk of losing their standards of living and incomes, decline as rising temperatures and more erratic rainfall will reduce crop yields, make water scarce, and push more people away from their homes to seek safer places. Productivity decline leading to food supply shortfalls and increase in food prices would directly affect millions of low-income smallholder farmers, especially those who depend on agriculture for their livelihood and income in South Asia.

In principle, Climate Smart Agriculture (Box 1) may help achieve higher production with reduced emissions. This would have been the simple answer to climate change impacts on agriculture, if the issues were simple. But they rarely are. For instance, smallholder farmers of South Asia, who are already facing a plethora of climatic and non-climatic stresses, have limited capacity to adopt new technologies due to limited access to natural resources, information, and finance.

Overcoming these barriers requires institutional and policy support (Pal et al. 2018). Extension and Advisory

Box 1: Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) is an approach that integrates climate change into planning and development of sustainable agricultural systems. The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO 2013) defines CSA as “agriculture that sustainably increases productivity, enhances resilience (adaptation), reduces/removes GHGs (mitigation) where possible, and enhances achievement of national food security and development goals”. CSA is not a one-size-fits-all set of practices to be adopted by every farmer. In each location, its form needs to be defined by the context (i.e., extent of vulnerability to climate change, varying community risk profiles, availability of resources, and livelihood systems). It can be applied on a single farm or over entire landscapes, and it often needs involvement of diverse agricultural stakeholders and coordination across different agricultural sectors, as well as other related sectors, such as energy and water. Enhancing the capacity of farmers to manage risk and adopt effective climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies therefore needs special attention. The implementation of CSA innovations calls for the design of appropriate solutions adapted to the technical, institutional, and policy-related needs of the stakeholders involved.

Services (EAS) need to support farmers in addressing some of these concerns, but their capacities need to be significantly enhanced to play these roles. This brief discusses some of these issues and draws significantly on the South Asia Policy Dialogue organised jointly by Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AES-A), IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC), the Centre for Research on Innovation and Science Policy (CRISP) and the Sri Lanka Network of Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (NAEASSL) at Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 5 October 2018. Several policy makers, donors, and key extension professionals engaged in promotion of climate smart agriculture in South Asian countries participated in this dialogue.

www.aasanetwork.org

Extension Curricula Reforms

AESA in collaboration with the **ICAR Broad Subject Matter Committee** (Agricultural Extension) and **MANAGE** developed a new curricula for MSc and PhD in Agricultural Extension in Indian Universities

(to be implemented from 2021 academic year)

(22nd June and 12 July 2018)



Editor Talk Series

ICAR-CTCRI; MANAGE, CRISP, AESA

14 July and 29 July 2029








Editor Talk Series - 1

AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS



Featuring
Dr. Val Snow
Chief Editor
Agricultural Systems
Elsevier

TUESDAY
JULY 14TH 2020
10:00 - 11:00 hrs

Dr. Val Snow is a systems modeller at AgResearch in New Zealand and comes from a soil physics and agricultural science background. Her research focuses on the development and use of simulation models to support technological innovation in pastoral agricultural systems and assessment of the impacts of land use. Application areas include land use policy, future farming systems, greenhouse gas mitigation and climate change adaptation. In addition to her research, Val currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Elsevier journal "Agricultural Systems".

Agricultural Systems is an international journal that deals with interactions among the components of agricultural systems, among hierarchical levels of agricultural systems, between agricultural and other land use systems, and between agricultural systems and their natural, social and economic environments.

Impact factor - 4.212
Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate Analytics, 2020)

For registration, please visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Val_Snow
For further information, please contact:
Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, Coordinator - Editor Talk Series (Mob: 9496550999)








Editor Talk Series - 2

The Journal of Agricultural Education & Extension



Featuring
Dr. Kristin Davis
Editor
Journal of Agricultural
Education and Extension
(Taylor & Francis)

WEDNESDAY
JULY 29TH 2020
14:00 - 15:00 hrs IST

Kristin Davis is a Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Washington, D.C. She has a PhD in International Agricultural Extension and her research focuses on farmer field schools, rural institutions, agricultural innovation systems, pluralistic extension systems and extension education in Africa and worldwide. She has served as president of the Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE) and as Executive Secretary of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS).

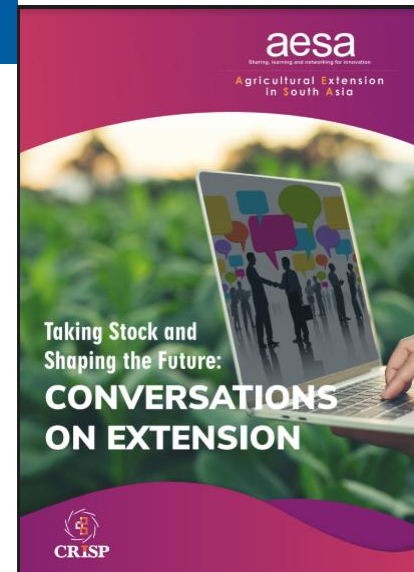
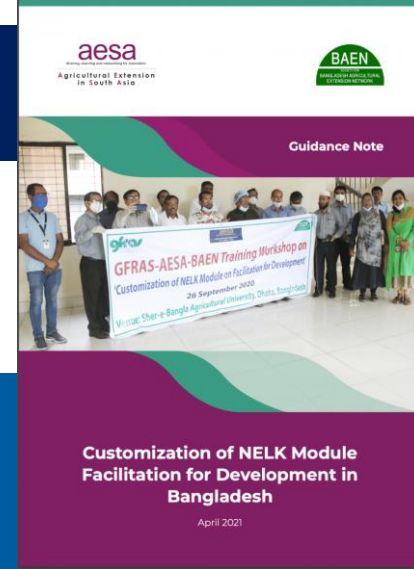
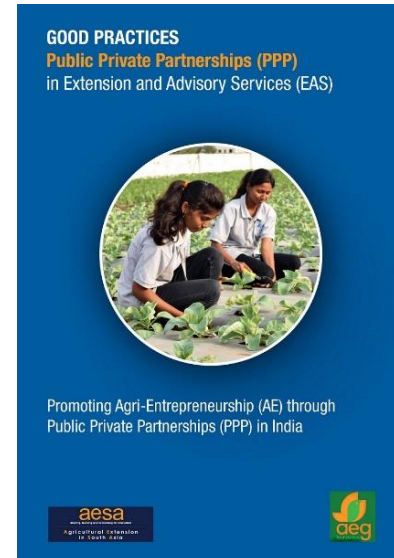
The Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension: Competence for Rural Innovation and Transformation is published to inform experts who do or use research on agricultural education and extension about research conducted in this field worldwide. The journal publishes papers applying multi-disciplinary perspective for improving Extension and Advisory Services

CiteScore 2019 - 2.8

For registration, please visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Kristin_Talk
For further information, please contact: aesanetwork@gmail.com

AESA Knowledge Management

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- **Special series-COVID-19 and EAS**



Updated AESA website with new features

May 7, 2021

Type here

Login

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Agricultural Extension in South Asia

HOME - BLOGS - GOOD PRACTICES - MY MEETING NOTES - FACE TO FACE - AESA EVENTS - AESA PUBLICATIONS - RESOURCES - LINKS - PROJECTS

Survey (January 2021) GUIDANCE NOTE- Customization of NELK Module "Facilitation for Development" in Bangladesh AESA and BAEN (April 2021) AESA Update



Developed, used and shared widely on social media

Easily Downloadable

Google analytics

Virtual Network

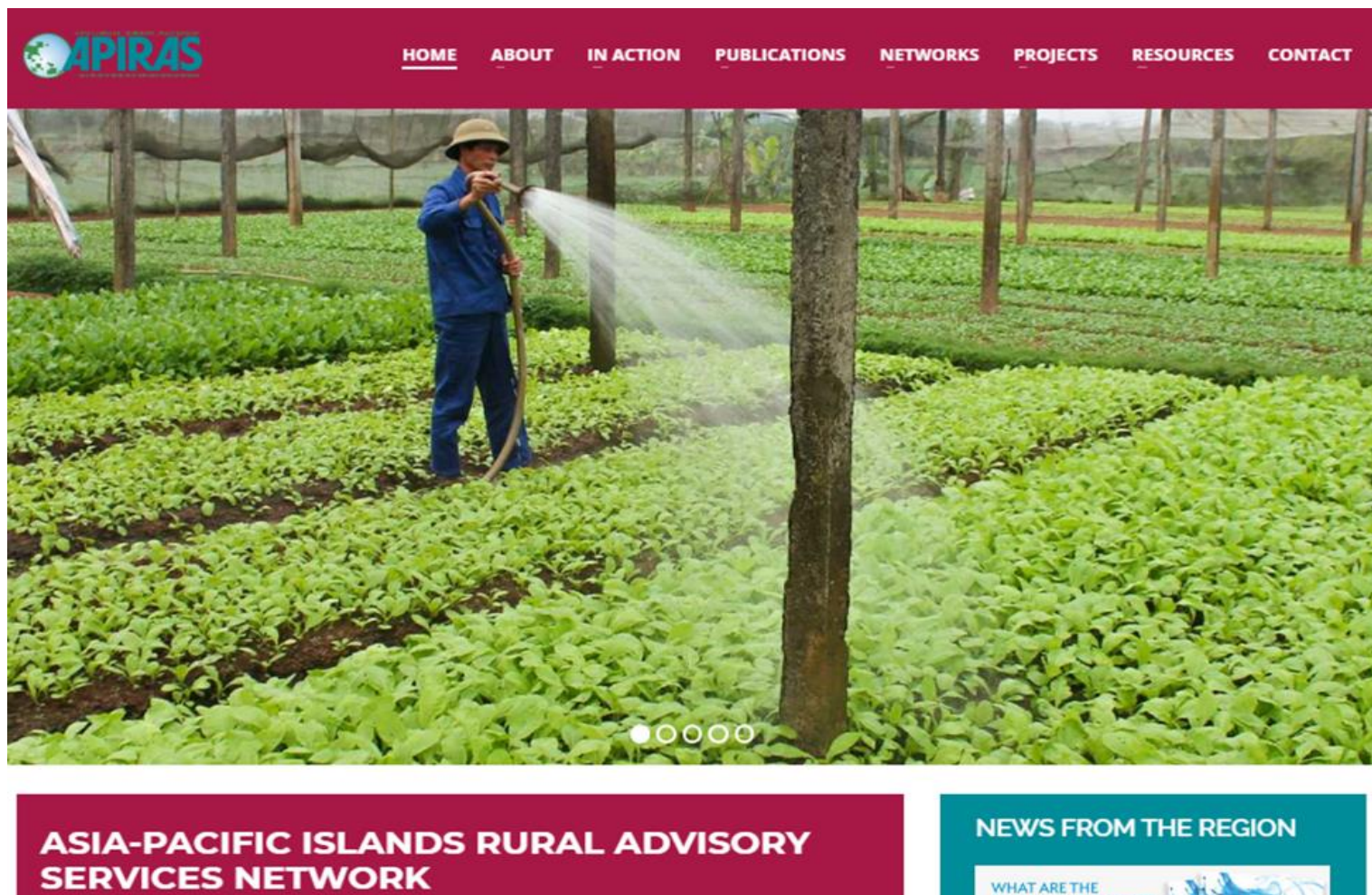
AESA Facebook Group

(>20900 members)

Daily updates

- on trainings, conferences,
- links to new publications
- and news related to EAS

Maintains Knowledge Management of APIRAS



<http://apiras.net/>

Secretariat/Project coordination: CRISP

Previously support under
the SAAS project for:

Language editing

Posting publications

Website Upgradation etc

Currently only limited
funding from IFAD project
to pay for a
communication person
and for everything else

CRISP pays for the cost of
secretariat time



Co-organized several events including webinars

- FAO,
- IFAD,
- GFRAS
- APAARI

- AESA is a member of the FAO-Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP)



Global capacity needs assessment methodology

Integrating nutrition objectives into agricultural extension and advisory services programmes and policies



Update 17
March 2021

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Agricultural Extension in South Asia

Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESA) participated in webinars and published several outputs from September 2020 to March 2021.

Knowledge Management

AESA, through its website, published ten blogs, four good practices notes, six book reviews, three face-to-face interviews, and three meeting notes during this period. The AESA Facebook group currently has more than 20,900 members. AESA updated the resource section of its website by adding more relevant themes, like agroecology and youth in agriculture. AESA is using the Facebook group, LinkedIn group, Twitter handle, and the AESA email list to promote exchange of knowledge on extension and advisory services (EAS). AESA is also handling knowledge management functions of the Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS) (www.apiras.net).



AESA organized an online survey to obtain feedback on its activities during January 2021. We received 252 responses and the findings from this survey can be accessed from website. Our sincere thanks to all those who participated in the survey and we will use your valuable advice to do even better.

Future Plans : Depending on resource availability and managing other challenges

- Handhold/Mentor/existing and new country fora
- Continue/Strengthen KM
- Organise Training of Trainers/
Promote NELK/
- Support curricula reforms in other countries
- Engage in policy consultations
- Respond to increasing demands for support
- Raise more resources
- Organise governance meetings (at least once in two years)



Funding Support under the Last Mile Project for 2021

Particulars	Amount (USD)
Part time Communication Officers time for managing AESA and APIRAS websites, adding extension relevant content and populating on social media	6000 (@500 per month)
Operationalising SRN/ RN and Technical Supervision of CF and participation in LMP (We are using this for language editing, designing publications)	6000 (@500 per month)
Zoom Subscription(yearly)	156
Training/Webinar with sharing costs	1500 (lumpsum)
AESA and APIRAS web portal upgradation (maintenance and updated in sync with newer priorities and features)	500

Challenges

- **Sustainable Financing:** Difficulties in getting core funds for managing a network (time, travel, communication, human resources)
- **At least one full time staff:**
Need a full time programme office
- **Not sure how far the existing arrangements will work**
AESAs with host (CRISP) support and cost sharing with other organisations



Thanks for your attention

