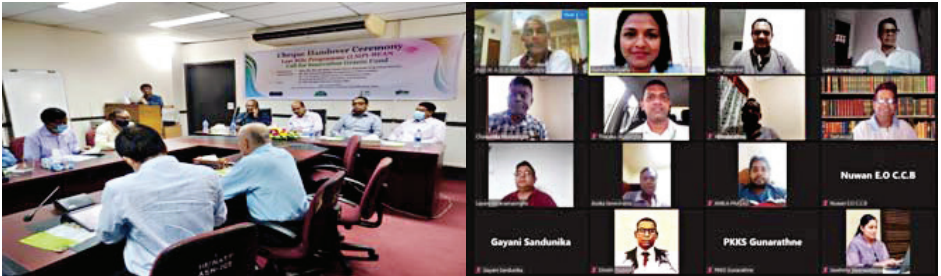


Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESA), organized webinars, worked on strengthening country fora, and published several outputs from April 2022 to September 2022.

Country Fora Strengthening

A meeting to reflect on the progress of the IFAD-supported Last Mile Programme (LMP) in Bangladesh was organized face to face at the BAEN (Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network) Office on 23 April 2022, with representatives from the AESA Secretariat. On 23 June 2022, the AESA-BAEN team presented the findings from the study on the six IFAD-supported initiatives focusing on last mile service delivery in Bangladesh to the IFAD country team. BAEN held its 18th Executive Committee meeting on 30 July 2022. It also organised an event on 27 August 2022, to present cheques to the candidates selected for innovation grants under the LMP.

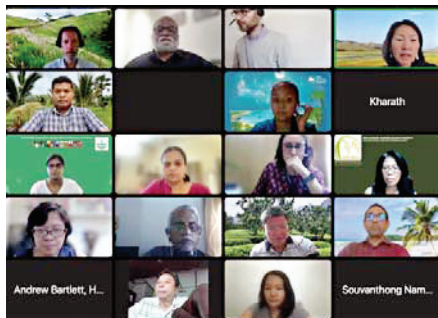


Network of Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services of Sri Lanka (NAEASSL) in collaboration with the Coconut Cultivation Board, Sri Lanka, is engaged in translation of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS)-New Extensionist Learning Kit (NELK), to Sinhala. An evaluation workshop to review the content was organised on 9 May 2022. An expert panel constituted by NAEASSL is currently reviewing the content and this will be finalised soon. On 7 May, NAEASSL organized a webinar by Priyanga Dissanayake, Head of the Soil and Plant Nutrition Division, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Development Centre on the topic 'Are we Finishing Organic Agriculture?'

Capacity Development

As part of the Joint Action Plan (JAP), funded under the TAP-AIS Project, AESA on behalf of Asia Pacific Islands Rural Advisors Services (APIRAS) collaborated with the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and the Research and Extension Unit of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations on several activities. Six Good Practices Notes that

highlight experiences on successful strengthening of capacities from the Asia-Pacific Region has been published. AESA also organized a webinar on 'Strengthening Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) in Asia-Pacific: Research-Extension Interface' on 21 June 2022, to showcase good practices from the region that have successfully addressed some of these challenges in strengthening AIS.



AESA organised the first Meeting of the APIRAS-APAARI-FAO Working Group (WG) on Agroecology on 10 June 2022. The WG members deliberated on the challenges in mainstreaming agroecology in the research, extension and education agencies in Asia-Pacific and ways of strengthening these capacities to promote agroecology, which could then be supported by both Regional Research and Extension Organizations in Asia-Pacific (APAARI and APIRAS).

Networking

Dr. Mahesh Chander, Head, Division of Extension Education, ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute and Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), interacted with students and faculty of Agricultural Extension at the Navsari Agricultural University, Gujarat, India on 6 September 2022 and discussed about GFRAS and AESA



networks and the new extension competencies that are needed currently. AESA supported the Regional Consultation for Transformative Pathways for Rural Advisory Services in the Near East and North Africa that was held on 29-30 June 2022; and with other GFRAS Regional Networks participated in the discussion on establishment of a new regional network of Rural Advisory Services at the North Africa and Near East (NENA) region.

Knowledge Management

AESA, through its website, published 12 blogs, two Good Practices Note, one book review, and four meeting notes, during the last six months.

**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**