

During the period from April to September 2024, AESA actively engaged in a variety of initiatives aimed at strengthening extension and advisory services (EAS) across South Asia. These activities included organizing trainings, workshops, participating in webinars, and facilitating meetings. Additionally, AESA made strides in strengthening country fora and produced several publications.

Knowledge Management

AESA significantly enhanced knowledge dissemination through its website and social media platforms. Between April and September 2024, AESA published 13 Blogs, 1 Good Practices Note, 3 Book Reviews, 5 Meeting Notes, 1 Face-to-Face Interview, and 3 Course Reviews. To promote knowledge exchange on EAS, AESA utilized various digital platforms, including Facebook, LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter), WhatsApp, Instagram, and its email list.

AESA also played a key role in strengthening its partnership with the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI). It facilitated the signing of a new agreement with APAARI, formalizing the hosting of the APIRAS (Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services). Furthermore, AESA managed the knowledge management functions of APIRAS, which can be accessed through its dedicated platform, www.apiras.net.

In June 2024, AESA represented APIRAS at the second virtual meeting of the Regional Research and Extension Organizations (RREOs)-Share Series, organized by FAO. During the meeting, AESA highlighted its efforts in creating and disseminating Knowledge Products (KPs) such as blogs, meeting notes, good practices, and book reviews to support knowledge management in agricultural extension.

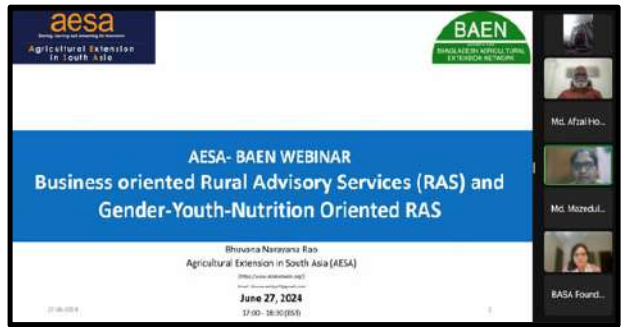
Strengthening Country Fora

AESA participated in a key planning workshop held in Kandy, Sri Lanka, from 20-21 April 2024. The workshop focused on finalizing training materials for a project titled 'Building Capacity for Climate Resilience and Organic Farming among Vegetable and Fruit Growers in Sri Lanka.' The project



is a joint initiative by the Network of Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Sri Lanka (NAEASSL), the World Vegetable Centre, and MicroSave Consulting.

In collaboration with the Society for Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN), AESA co-hosted a webinar on 27 June 2024. The webinar, part of the Last Mile Programme (LMP) supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), focused on sharing experiences related to Business-Oriented Rural Advisory Services (RAS) and Gender-Youth-Nutrition Oriented RAS.



Capacity Development

AESA contributed significantly to capacity development programs during this period. AESA champions participated in the National Young Professionals Development Programmes organized by MANAGE, which took place at Hyderabad (22-26 April 2024), Gujarat (1-5 July 2024), and Bhubaneswar (22-26 July 2024). Through this collaboration, AESA helped strengthen the capacities of more than 150 Postgraduate and PhD students in agricultural extension from several Agricultural Universities in India.

Moreover, AESA focal points, Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman V. (Director, CRISP) and Dr. Sarvanan Raj (Director, Agricultural Extension, MANAGE), served as resource persons at a state-level conference on 'Fortifying Agricultural Extension Practices in Agriculture.' This event, organized by the Vasanttrao Naik State Agriculture Extension Management Training Institute (VANAMATI), was held on 21 May 2024 in Nagpur, Maharashtra, India.



**AESA Secretariat: Centre for Research on Innovation and Science Policy (CRISP),
Road No 10, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034, India
www.aesnetwork.org Email: aesnetwork@gmail.com**