

UPDATE ON GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

TAP Action Plan 2018 - 2021

Following up on the agreements made at the 5th TAP Partners Assembly, held in September 2017 in Laos, during the first quarter of 2018, the TAP Steering Committee, Secretariat and the Task Force appointed by the Partners' Assembly completed the revised TAP Action Plan 2018-2021. On April 20, the TAP Steering Committee approved the circulation of the updated draft action plan among the TAP partners for their review and inputs, prior to finalization and endorsement by a virtual Partners Assembly in the second quarter. Four key priority areas have been identified with a focus on country ownership of the capacity for development process for strengthening agricultural innovation systems and mainstreaming agricultural innovation in national policies. TAP Partners have also been requested to indicate their commitments and identify activities for which they would take either take lead responsibility or support implementation. The Steering Committee also appointed a small task force to develop a resource mobilization strategy for TAP, which will be discussed at its next meeting prior to circulation to Partners.

The G20 Agriculture Deputies Stock taking exercise

Following the participation of the TAP Secretariat, on behalf of TAP partners, at the MACS meeting in Germany in November 2017, TAP was requested to participate in the G20 stock-taking exercise and to report on this G20 initiative at the Agricultural Deputies meeting held on 12 and 13 March 2018 in Rosario, Argentina. The TAP progress report was well received. See here the [Stock-taking report on TAP](#).

TAP was represented by the Secretariat at the Meeting of the Agricultural Chief Scientists of G20 States (MACS-G20), held from 28 to 30 May in San Salvador de Jujuy, Argentina.

TAP Secretariat hosts a Visiting Scientist from China

Cuie Guang, from China joined the TAP Secretariat in March 2018 as visiting scientist to support the documentation of innovations to link farmers to markets in BRICS countries, thanks to funding provided by the Chinese government.

Resource mobilization: new projects in the pipeline

The Italian Cooperation for Development recently approved the Project Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems in El Salvador. The project document was signed on April 18, 2018 in the presence of the Minister of Agriculture of El Salvador, Mr. Orestes Ortez; the Ambassador of Italy in El Salvador, Mr. Umberto Malnati; the Representative of the AICS Regional Office, Mr. Marco Falcone; and the FAO Representative in El Salvador, Mr. Alan Gonzalez. The project is expected to kick-off in the second half of 2018. See here [Press note of the event](#).

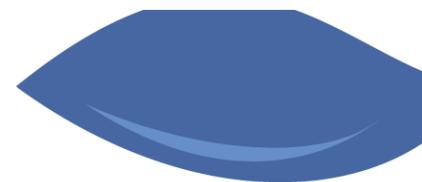
New Resources in TAPipedia



CGIAR has shared a [CNA framework and tools for the partners of the CGIAR Research Program on Livestock CRP](#), a tool published in April 2018, intended to serve as a resource for assessing capacity needs in a project or programme.



GFRAS has recently translated into French 26 [notes on good practices of extension services and rural council](#), which describe key concepts and methods in an easy to understand format to make information and expertise in extension easily accessible to a wide audience of practitioners.



The “Pro-poor agricultural innovation systems for sustainable and resilient agri-food systems” concept note, submitted to IFAD last year, was positively evaluated by the respective IFAD committee. FAO is currently developing the full proposal in close collaboration with the governments in Peru and Zambia. The full proposal will be submitted to IFAD by June 2018.

TAP Partners activities on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems - Summary

AGREENIUM

Agreenium develops the link between education, research, innovation and development and encourages cooperation between its members. In this context, the following activities were organized in the first quarter:

- **February 2:** Launch of the [MOOC “agroecology an introduction”](#). Both French and English sessions took place over a period of 6 weeks, with participation of professionals (farmers, professors, among others) from Brazil, Cambodia, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, France, USA (see the [Teaser](#)).
- **March 26-27:** Workshop "[digital campus in agrbiosciences](#)" in **Dakar Senegal**. In partnership with the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), the Virtual University of Senegal (UVS) and the Agricultural University USSEIN, Agreenium organized a two-day working session to set up a digital campus in agri-biosciences.
- **March 26-30:** The annual seminar of the Agreenium International Research School ([EIR-A](#)) was dedicated this year to the theme "Global Health: a Global Approach to the Health for All". It took place on the veterinary campus of VetAgro Sup Dijon, France. The [annual seminars of the EIR-A](#) bring together about 90 doctoral students, they include two days of scientific conferences, and give the student the opportunity to expose their research topic, to visit laboratories and develop their international network.
- **SSESAH-INNOVSUR 2018:** The conference of the International Society for Economics and Social Sciences of Animal Health, Isessah, and the Next Generation of Health Surveillance Forum, InnovSur, was held from 14 to 18 May 2018 in Montpellier on the campus of Montpellier SupAgro. Six member organizations of Agreenium were involved. The presence of numerous national and international experts in a wide range of disciplines will help to link health surveillance issues to the socio-economic contexts of the different countries of the North and South and to increase their interaction.

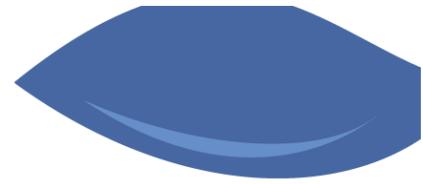
APAARI



Ms. Martina Spisiakova presenting on CD for agricultural innovation-bringing system-wide change in AP through building soft skills in Higher Education

The Asia-Pacific Association of Research Institutions (APAARI) was an active participant in a 3-day conference at the University of Chulalongkorn in Bangkok that was held on the theme “Agri-Food systems, Rural sustainability and Socioeconomic Transformation in Southeast Asia”. The event, which ran from January 23 to 25, was attended by a large number of researchers and representatives from the various organizations interested in food security of the Southeast Asian region.

APAARI used the platform to discuss extensively on the use of transformational learning and capacity development to enhance agri-food systems in the Asia-Pacific. The various presentations made by APAARI during the event highlighted the mind set shift in tackling contemporary agricultural development. APAARI also led a panel discussion on effective education for greening agri-food systems and rural sustainability and made a presentation on “Capacity development for agricultural innovation-bringing system-wide change in Asia-Pacific through building soft skills”.



APAARI also played a lead role on a policy dialogue session through a provoking presentation on “Strengthening Social and Sustainable Science in Higher Education Research and Extension for Green Climate resilient Agri-food Systems in ASEAN to meet SDGs” and in the meeting that deliberated on the establishment of an ASEAN social and sustainable science network. APAARI was selected to represent TAP and promote the key elements of the CD Framework at the European Development Days from 5-6 June 2018.

CATAS

Sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China (MOC), the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) will hold 10 China-aid training courses on tropical agricultural technology in 2018, including 6 short-term training courses in China and 4 training courses respectively in Congo (Brazzaville), Rwanda, Micronesia, and Zanzibar. The training course covers planting, processing and pest control techniques for natural rubber, cassava, date palm, tropical fruits and vegetables, and tropical food crops. Recently, the Tropical Agriculture “Going Out” Practical Technologies Series of 16 books were published for the first time in three languages: Chinese, English and French. They were written and compiled by Prof. Liu Guodao, in his capacity as vice-president of CATAS and chief editor, and several CATAS experts. The books in this series cover the practical cultivation techniques of tropical crops such as *stylosanthes guianensis*, rice, cassava, coffee, rubber and vanilla, and practical breeding techniques such as broilers, based on research results and practical experiences over several years.

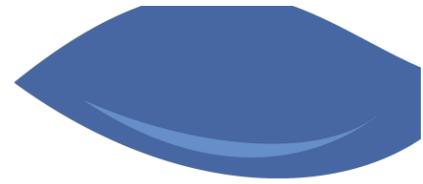
GCHERA

The GCHERA World Agriculture Prize Award Ceremony will take place on 28 October 2018 at Nanjing Agricultural University. The [GCHERA World Agriculture Prize](#) is awarded annually “to encourage the global development of the mission of higher education institutions in **education, research, innovation and outreach** in the agricultural and life sciences by recognizing the distinguished contribution of an individual to this mission”. Starting this year, two GCHERA World Agriculture Prizes are being awarded with each laureate receiving a cash award of USD100, 000 plus a special trophy.

GCHERA is currently making plans to celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2019 with events that include a world conference highlighting the key role of innovation in research and human capacity development and, in helping provide solutions to the global challenge of food and nutritional security, and environmental sustainability. GCHERA looks forward to sharing details with TAP partners over the coming months.

FAO

On 21-23 November 2018, FAO will host the FAO International Symposium on *Agricultural for Family Farmers: Unlocking the potential of agricultural innovation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*. It will take place at FAO Headquarters in Rome and about 400-500 participants are expected to attend, representing governments, private sector entities, civil society organizations, academia/research organizations and producer organizations/cooperatives. Through the Symposium, participants will be able to discuss the pathways and drivers that lead to successful innovation as well as opportunities for rapid scaling up of agricultural innovation. The Symposium is expected to encourage increased investments in agricultural innovation at local, national and international levels, including the development of appropriate national innovation strategies in support of countries’ efforts to achieve the SDGs. The Chair of the TAP Steering Committee has accepted the invitation to be on the advisory panel of the Symposium. The advisory panel provides strategic advice and guidance to the FAO Task Force and will meet in Rome on 11-12 June 2018. A Call for representatives of non-state actors (i.e. representatives of private sector entities, civil society organizations, research/academic institutions, and producer organizations and cooperatives) to ‘express an interest’ in attending the Symposium will soon be available from the FAO website. National partners from non-state actors of the eight CDAIS countries should participate in this Call.



ICIPE

The International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology based in Nairobi, received a consultancy by GIZ-Somalia on technical expertise in combating major plant diseases over a period of seven months. Activities include:

- The First National Workshop on *Tuta Absoluta*, Hargeisa in Somaliland took place in April 2018. Participants from all over Somaliland such as NGO, FOs, UN-Agencies and smallholders farmers and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture Development attended this event.
- Identification of the magnitude of the problem caused by *T. absoluta* infestation and a quick assessment of the growers as well as other stakeholder's knowledge and practices regarding the *T. absoluta* was undertaken.
- Capacity building and knowledge transfer: Identify appropriate dissemination pathways (video training, pictorial guide, flyer or posters) mindful of potential language barriers and other socio-economical constraints and design a training program on management of *T. absoluta* targeting potential multipliers and the growers, among others.

In addition, the [ICIPE Technology Transfer Unit](#) has launched a recent publication entitled [Push Pull Technology](#), a conservation agricultural approach, developed for integrated management of stemborers, striga weed and soil fertility, and based on locally available plants, not expensive external inputs, and fits well with traditional mixed cropping systems in Africa.

USAID

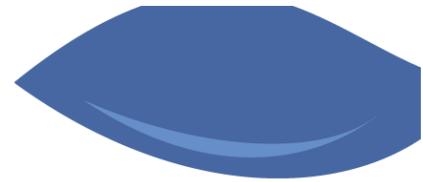
USAID launched a new 49 million USD Feed the Future Strengthening Agricultural Innovation Capacities competitive grant, which was widely promoted. <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=303015>

World Vegetable Center

As part of a EU Horizon 2020 funded project “[G2P-SOL](#)”, the World Vegetable Center held a [training school](#) in Hyderabad, India from 22-25 January 2018. The training aimed at promoting the use of the global genetic diversity of potato, tomato, pepper and eggplant for variety improvement. The training was attended by 29 breeders, mostly from the private sector, from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia and Taiwan. Topics included germplasm conservation, access to genebank materials, and breeding technologies, including biostatistics and molecular breeding. The training included classroom lectures as well as field visits and hands-on exercises in seed treatment. Participants also enjoyed interacting with their peers from other companies and institutions, which gave them the opportunity to strengthen their professional networks.

Upcoming events:

- Experts Consultation on AIS diagnosis co-organized by CIRAD and FAO to be held from 13 to 15 June 2018 in Paris, France. The objective is to review, consolidate and validate a framework and build consensus on a methodological approach for AIS diagnosis, and sub-sector, specifically rural advisory services (RAS). TAP Partners organizations (e.g. Agreenium, USAID, CGIAR, GFRAS, CTA, FAO, IICA, FiBL) and CDAIS players will attend the meeting.
- Webinar on TAPipedia for French and Spanish speaking community to be held in the second half of 2018. Dates to be announced soon.



UPDATE ON THE CDAIS PROJECT

Good progress has been made during the first quarter of 2018 in the eight pilot countries:

- **CD interventions:** CD-related interventions have started in all 8 countries. These include training (for example on governance in innovation partnerships; participatory and inclusive management practices; communication, leadership, entrepreneurship), coaching and advocacy activities. After the first cycle of CD interventions, a series of Reflection and Refinement Workshops have been organized to reflect and assess the outcomes of the training modules and potentially adjust the CD delivery to better match the needs and demands as expressed in the action plan.
- **Capacity needs assessment of key organizations:** in each country, key national organizations providing innovation support services and playing a role in enabling innovation and directly linked with the niche partnerships (in some cases the organizations are represented in the niche) have been identified and selected for undertaking a capacity needs assessment. Guidelines and tools for the capacity needs assessment at organization level have been developed by Agrinatura and FAO, in consultation with partners.
- **Policy dialogue process:** consultations at regional/district and national level have started in Angola, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Laos and Rwanda. Laos and Rwanda have already organized policy consultations at regional level upon government's demand. On request of the countries, the FAO HQ team developed guidelines on how to conduct the consultations at regional/district level. Regional and national policy dialogue events are planned in each country between May and September 2018.
- The Project Oversight Committee (POC) met in Rome on 24 and 25 of May 2018, to discuss 2017 achievements and work plan and budget for 2018.



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The implementation of the TAP Action Plan is supported by the EU-funded project, Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS)

New CDAIS stories of changes

Angola:

[A story of change on rural enterprise](#),
*Maria de Fátima do Nascimento and
Madalena Teles, February 2018*

[From knowing needs to sowing seeds](#),
Zeferino Konda, March 2018

[Growing hope, from new knowledge
on a new crop](#), *Juliana Sacamia,
Romão Cabeto and Zeferino Konda,
April 2018*

Bangladesh: [We must work together to
increase mango production](#), *Wahab R,
November 2017*

Burkina Faso: [Encouraging organic
farming](#), *Prosper K, Radier V, Feb 2018*

Ethiopia: [The need for seed requires
more subtle changes](#), *Ergano K, Asmare
G, December 2017*

Guatemala: [Improving nutrition – from
new partnerships promoting a new bean
variety](#), *Escobar J, Palma F, May 2018*

Honduras: [Potato producers turn pest
problems into policy processes](#), *Villeda
Miriam, May 2018*

Laos:

[Diversifying rice production with
frogs, fish and more](#), *Sihanath D,
December 2017*

[Sowing the seeds of an organic and
nutritious future](#), *Sihanath D,
December 2017*