

FEBRUARY 2021

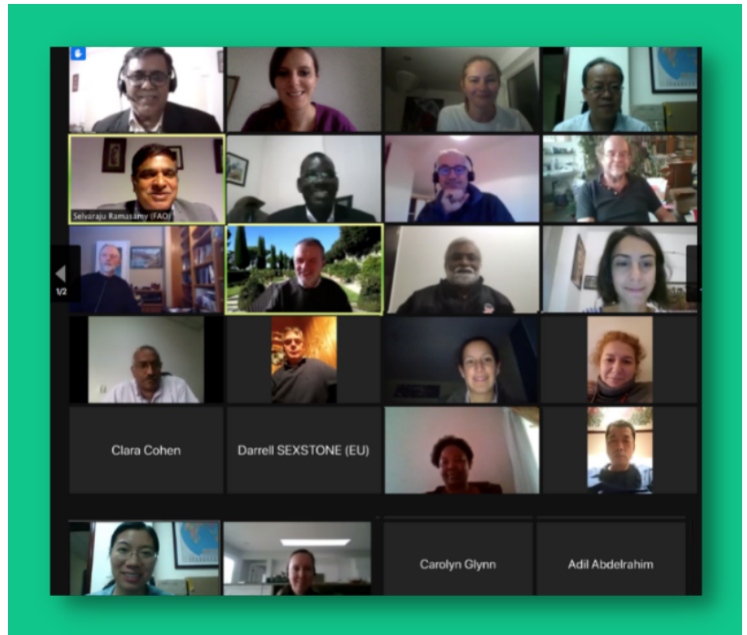
TAP Newsletter



7TH TAP PARTNERS ASSEMBLY

The 7th Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) Partners Assembly took place virtually from 16 to 20 November 2020. The Assembly consisted of two virtual meetings with the participation of TAP Partners exclusively and of four side events attended by a wider audience. Around 30 TAP Partner Organizations attended the meetings and 30 to 150 people attended each side event.

The TAP Partners meetings aimed at bringing together TAP Partners to assess the progress of implementation of the TAP Action Plan 2018-2021, to discuss the future Workplan, and improve coordination and collaboration among partners. At the end of the meetings, several recommendations were captured by the TAP Secretariat, these will serve as the basis for the 2021 Workplan and for the development of the new Action Plan 2022-2025.



Group picture from the TAP Partners Assembly

Some of these recommendations included:

- collection of evidence of behavioral and attitude changes as results of the different activities, trainings and lessons learned from the TAP experience;
- development of a partnership engagement strategy that includes working groups and regional networks;
- blending of functional and technical skills for the benefit of stakeholders in the TAP Common Framework; and
- strengthening of capacities to mainstreaming the AIS approaches at institutional and policy levels.

TAP PARTNERS ASSEMBLY SIDE EVENTS

Four side events were organized during the TAP Partners Assembly week (16-20 November 2020) as follow:

Monday 16 November 2020 | Developing Capacities for Agricultural Innovation Systems. Lessons from implementing a Common Framework in eight countries. Side event organized by Agrinatura and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

This side event aimed at sharing the key lessons from the EU-funded Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS) Project and shaping visions and actions to mainstream functional capacities for AIS in the development agenda at global and national levels. Discussions were rooted in the learning review of the results of the CDAIS project across the eight pilot countries and in the testimonies of Developing Capacities (CD) experts who were involved in the project.

Approximately 150 participants, including panellists, attended the event. Recording of the event is available at the following link: https://youtu.be/bSsh9yIIV_s

Wednesday 19 November 2020 | Assessment of Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) and Development of Country Profiles: Sharing Experiences from the Inception Phase of the TAP-AIS Project. Side event organized by FAO.

This side event was organized by the Country Project Managers of the EU-funded TAP-AIS project in collaboration with staff at FAO Headquarters. During the side event, countries exchanged views on the challenges and opportunities that arose during the inception phase of the project, shared the differences, commonalities of the AIS profiles and the approaches they are using for the assessment of the national AIS. The side event also served to discuss opportunities for collaboration among the countries where the TAP-AIS project is implemented.

Approximately 40 people attended the event. Recording of the event is available at the following link: https://youtu.be/j7yqKh_1DMc.

20 November 2020 | Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators: A Critical Resource for Agricultural Innovation System Capacity Development. Side event organized by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) & International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

This side event aimed at presenting the Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) program, facilitated by IFPRI. This programme fulfils a unique role in supplying the necessary information to promote an understanding of the status and direction of national agricultural research systems in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC). The event highlighted that, even though ASTI's focus is primarily on the agricultural research and higher education components of AIS, the outputs constitute a powerful resource for AIS managers, policymakers, donor organizations and other stakeholders.

The event focused on linkage between ASTI and AIS capacity development: two country experiences were presented (Asia Pacific and West Africa). Two panellists presented some lessons on embedding ASTI evidence in policy-making processes, respectively in India and in Ghana.

Approximately 50 participants attended the event. Recording of the event is available at the following link: <https://youtu.be/NP4VtdURWzo>

20 November 2020 | Regional Dialogue on Capacity Development in Agricultural Innovation Systems in Asia, Africa and Latin America: Lessons and Experiences from the Joint Rapid Appraisals (JRA). Side event organized by IICA, RELASER, APAARI, APIRAS, FARA & AFAAS.

The side event highlighted some of the progresses at regional level of the TAP-AIS project, in particular, the Joint Rapid Appraisals (JRA) conducted by the regional research and extension organizations to identify entry points for the integration of TAP tools and approach in regional organizations.

During this side event, the RREOs showcased key findings from the JRA and highlighted the importance of close collaboration between research and extension regional organizations.

Approximately 35 participants attended the event and actively contributed to the discussion. Recording of the event is available at the following link: <https://youtu.be/VbqdimLdhVI>

■ The first CDEG e-discussion completed

The first moderated e-discussion of the TAP Capacity Development Expert Group (CDEG) on the revision of the TAP Common Framework on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CD for AIS) was successfully completed in December 2020 by the TAP Capacity Development Expert Group (CDEG).



During the eight-week e-discussion, CD experts provided inputs on the concepts, approaches, ownership and dissemination for the improvement of the Common Framework. The TAP Common Framework will be revised during this coming year 2021, based on feedback, suggestions and recommendations collected from the experts. The report will be shared with the TAP Steering Committee members and TAP Partners, once validation is granted at the CDEG meeting in March 2021.

TAP launches its Twitter account!

In January 2021, TAP has launched its Twitter account: https://twitter.com/TAP_G20 ! We encourage all TAP Partners to follow us and keep updated on the latest TAP news. Please feel free to share content via Twitter with the TAP Secretariat. You can also mention us in your tweets, in relation to the TAP partnership, by using the @TAP_G20 tag.



Follow us!



UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

AFAAS

Master Trainers' Reflection and Capacity Building Workshop in Uganda

The Eastern Africa Farmer Field School Support Hub (EA FS SH) through the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) organized a Master Trainers' Reflection and Capacity Building Workshop that took place at Eneku Village, in Soroti, Uganda, from 27 to 30 December 2020. The Workshop aimed at providing space for reflections and building capacity of master trainers on key aspects of the Field School (FS) extension approach. It also intended, among others, to:

- train Master Trainers on key indicators of the Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework, stakeholder Analysis of FS;
- identify capacity gaps and refine capacity development plans;
- share key developments in extension; and
- share experiences and lessons from the field.

The categories of participants at the workshop were master trainers, FAO employees, Local Government, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, FS retired practitioners (leaders), FS sub-grants implementers - Teso Dioceses Development Office (TEDDO), Soroti Catholic Diocese Integrated Development Organization (SOCADIDO) and Camkwoki Grassroot Initiative For Development Limited (CAMKWOKI) - and the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (FS hub). The Workshop was conducted both in-person and virtually guided by a working programme. A participatory-centred approach was used, as participants were in a better position to identify existing weaknesses, strengths and recommendations to improve FS operations.

AFAAS has hosted the Eastern Africa Field School Support Hub (FS SH) since November 2018. The mandate of the FS Hub is to provide a platform for the institutionalization and oversight on quality implementation of the FS approach among governments, private sector and other FS actors in the region. Geographically, the FS hub operates in eight Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) member Countries (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda) and an additional three countries from the East African Community (Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania).



Participants of the Master Trainers' Reflection and Capacity Building Workshop

A common web platform <http://eafieldschools.net/> has been established as a repository of FS information to complement the Global FS platform managed at FAO Headquarters. The FS SH will collaborate with a number of partners including Access Agriculture, National and Community Based Organizations in developing training and demonstration videos, innovation tools on thematic FS topics. A WhatsApp group, LinkedIn page, Facebook page and Twitter page have been rolled out to enhance communication in an increasing social media perceiving FS actors and practitioners.

AGREENIUM

The Agreenium Alliance: a new organization for a renewed collective action

Bringing together French expertise in training and research for agriculture, food, the environment and global health at the highest level, is the goal of the new *Agreenium Alliance*, starting on January 2021.



Supported by the different ministries responsible for agriculture, food, higher education and research, and coordinated by the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE), the Alliance will make it possible to continue the collective action of Agreenium (French Institute of Agronomy, Veterinary and Forestry) in a more agile and efficient way.

The goal of the Alliance is to implement projects under the Agreenium brand and to expand collaborations by implementing new actions. The Alliance members decide to pool the necessary resources for the following four missions:

- lead a community of interest to organize a shared analysis and develop concrete projects;
- improve the visibility of the higher education and research in their fields;
- establish a platform of innovative and ambitious projects, in particular digital and international projects; and
- ensure inter-institutional coordination of doctoral training.

These missions aim to support transitions, strengthen the link between higher education and research, support innovation and support public policies in the fields of agriculture, food, the environment and global health (one health), at the heart of the major social challenges.

The project with Agrhyment Regional Center continues after the co-design of a digital campus

Agreenium and the Agrhyment Regional Center worked together on the co-design of a digital campus for food security in the Sahel Region as part of a workshop held on 20 and 21 January 2021 and led by Philippe Prévost, in charge of digital cooperation.

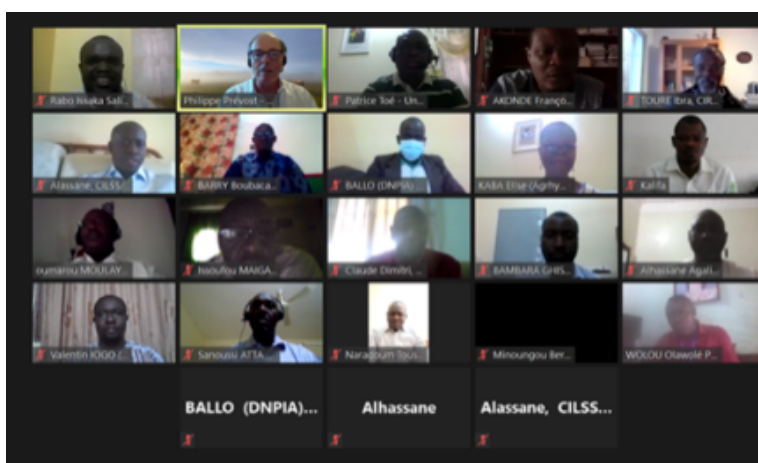
During this workshop, Agreenium and Agrhyment Regional Center agreed to accelerate activities in order to implement the main actions undertaken in the project:

- configuration of Agrhyment Regional Center digital ecosystem (the website, a geoportal for the practical management and valuation of agrologic-hydrologic-meteorological data, and a digital campus dedicated to users information and training); and
- production of digital resources to feed the digital campus by the end date for the project, July 2021.

Agrhyment Regional Center is a specialized institution of the permanent Inter-State committee for drought control in the Sahel Region.



Presentation broadcast during the workshop



Workshop participants

© AGREENIUM

AGRINATURA

Agrinatura announces the newly elected President, Vice President and Member of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development, Agrinatura, is pleased to announce the appointment of Stephen Onakuse, University College Cork, Ireland as the Organization's next President. The position of Vice President will be taken up by a long-term member of Agrinatura Association Board, Petra Chaloupková, Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague.

Miguel de Porrás, Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) in Brussels, joins the Board of Directors, which include: Carolin Callenius, University of Hohenheim, Germany; Didier Pillot, SuprAgro, France; Frederic Francis, University of Liege, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, Belgium; Torsten Rodel Berg, University of Åhus, Denmark, and Pascal Boeckx University of Ghent, Belgium.

In May 2021 the current President Carolyn Glynn, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and Timothy Chancellor, University of Greenwich, Natural Resource Institute (NRI) will end their four-year terms of office.

Stephen Onakuse will also replace Carolyn Glynn as Agrinatura representative in the TAP Steering Committee.

CAAS

APEC Training Course on Crop Growth Model Theory and Application & the 7th Agricultural Model Development and Application Seminar

On 11 November 2020, the "APEC Training Course on Crop Growth Model Theory and Application & the 7th Agricultural Model Development and Application Seminar" was successfully held at the Institute of Agricultural Resources and Regional Planning (IARRP), Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). This event was supported by China Consortium for Agro-systems Modelling and funded by the International Cooperation Department of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance of China. The training course and seminar were also streamed live online. More than 600 participants, including experts, scholars and graduate students from APEC member economies such as Australia, Indonesia, Mexico, Singapore and Thailand, as well as domestic institutes and universities, attended the meeting.



Participants of the APEC Training Course

CIAR2020 Think-tank Research Outcomes Released

The Center for International Agricultural Research (CIAR) of CAAS released its latest think-tank research outcomes related to overseas agriculture at the 4th International Agricultural Research Conference held on 14 December 2020 in Beijing. This is the fourth consecutive year for CIAR to disseminate public information products and research achievement at the Conference, which includes the SILK Model for Global Agriculture, Country Studies on Agricultural Development and Cooperation of 20 African countries and Global Market Research Reports on 20 agricultural products.

High-level representatives from FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP) and Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) offices in China, diplomats from embassies in Beijing were invited to the Conference to present their strategic plans for the next five years and share agricultural investment opportunities from national perspectives.

A panel discussion on cooperation between agribusinesses and research institutions was joined by experts from China National Rice Research Institute (CNIRRI) and Institute of Cotton Research (ICR) of CAAS, as well as representatives from China's leading companies in rice breeding and fertilizer industry.

About 200 people participated in the Conference, while over 6000 people watched the event through live streaming.



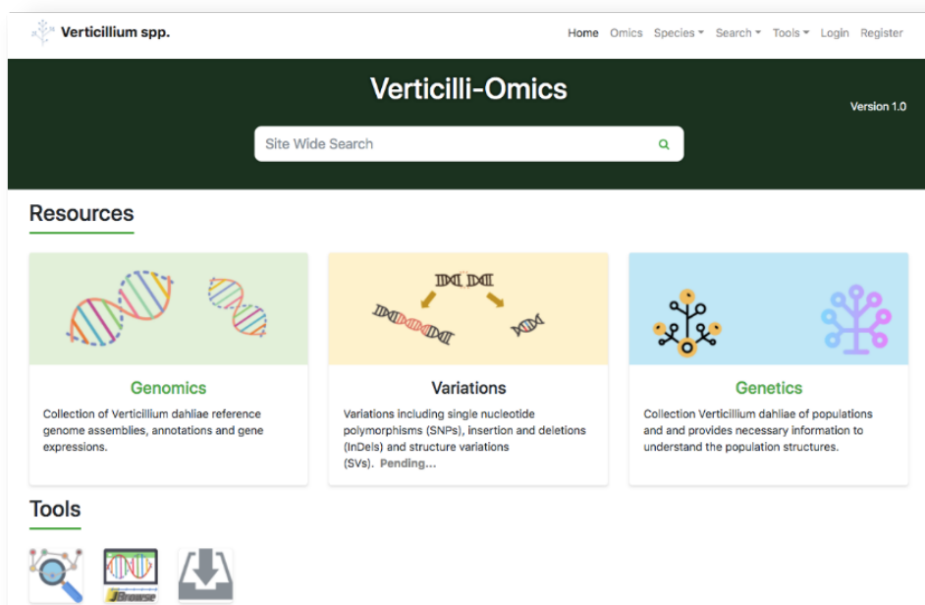
The 4th International Agricultural Research Conference, Beijing

Database of Crop Verticillium Wilt Pathogen Resource and Genome was released

In November 2020, Institute of Plant Protection (IPP) – CAAS released the first database of crop Verticillium wilt pathogen resources and genomes – Verticilli-Omics, which was jointly established with the University of California, Davis. The database will be available to researchers and plant pathologists across the world to consult the collected *Verticillium dahliae* resource information, visualize the sequenced genome structure and conduct comparative genomics and data mining.

V. dahliae is a devastating soil-borne vascular pathogenic fungus. This pathogen, together with the most terrible pathogen of potato late blight, has been listed as top quarantine phytopathogen in the whole world, which can infect a wide range of hosts and cause an average annual loss of nearly ten billion dollars. To overcome the shortcoming of resources for the *Verticillium* pathogen, the Innovation Team of Crop Verticillium wilt constructed the most comprehensive *Verticillium spp.* strains resource bank in the world, and initiated the “Global *Verticillium dahliae* Genomics Research” project. This includes 16 collaborating units at home and abroad, to carry out international cooperative research for *V. dahliae* strains collection and genome sequenced.

Currently, the Verticilli-Omics Community has collected 8102 *V. dahliae* strains and completed the genomic analysis (159 strains whole genome sequenced, 3624 strains genome re-sequenced), constructed Verticilli-Omics database version 1.0 that went live online: <https://db.cngb.org/Verticilli-Omics>



Kick-off Meeting for Gates Foundation Project “Establishment and Experience Learning of Early Warning System for Crop Pests in China” was held at IPP-CAAS

The kick-off meeting for Gates Foundation Project “*Establishment and Experience Learning of Early Warning System for Crop Pests in China*” was held on 20 December 2020 at IPP-CAAS. The first step of this project is to understand the important pest species in African countries, such as aphids and African armyworms. Based on the investigation and understanding of the occurrence of diseases and insect pests in Africa, an early warning system suitable for local diseases and insect pests should be developed. China started the early warning system of crop pests in 1978, including:

- establishment and equipment of monitoring facilities;
- formulation of monitoring methods and standards;
- conducting training; and
- establishment of effective national and regional consultation mechanisms.

Gates Foundation and CAAS are expected to develop a long-term cooperation, working together to reduce poverty, improve health and eliminate inequality in development on a global scale.



Kick-off Project “Establishment and Experience Learning of Early Warning System for Crop Pests in China”

Inclusive Modern Agriculture Development driven by Big Data Workshop held by CAAS in Beijing

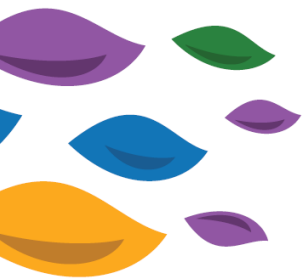
The Agricultural Information Institute and Center for International Agricultural Research of CAAS co-organized the workshop on *Inclusive Modern Agriculture Development Driven by Big Data* in Beijing on 9 and 10 December 2020. Scholars and experts from the Department of International Cooperation of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Areas (MARA), Institute of Agriculture Resource and Regional Planning (IARRP), Oil Crops Research Institute and Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute of CAAS, China Agricultural University, University of Nottingham, FAO, the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) participated in the workshop.

The workshop invited well-known speakers from China and abroad to present reports on agricultural information, technological innovation and application of smart agriculture in China, big data-driven intelligent design of crops, three-dimensional traceability ecosystem of agricultural product based on block chain, the introduction of CAAS Science Technology Innovation Programme (CAASTIP) and Global Challenges Research Fund, among others. The workshop was held both on-site and online.



Approximately 50 on-site participants from China, 20 international audience from Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, United Kingdom, Brazil, New Zealand and others attended the workshop on line.

Participants of the Inclusive Modern Agriculture Development driven by Big Data Workshop



CATAS

CATAS submitted a report on contribution of Tropical Agriculture to World Food Security to FAO

Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) has submitted to FAO a report on Contribution of Tropical Agriculture to World Food Security, highlighting the importance of tropical agriculture. Taking cassava as an example, which is planted in more than 100 countries and represents the main food crop for more than one billion people in the world, CATAS has bred new cassava varieties with high yield, developed new technologies for green and efficient cultivation, intensive processing and produced machines for planting and harvesting.

The new CATAS varieties and technologies have been tested in Nigeria, Tanzania, the Republic of Congo, Uganda, and have achieved good results. The report suggests to increase cassava's yield and value added by applying modern and suitable technologies, in order to produce more food and increase people's living conditions.

CATAS popularizes grass planting and cattle raising technology for small farmers in Yunnan Province

In view of the breeding needs of small farmers in rocky desertification mountainous area of Baoshan City of Yunnan Province, China, CATAS established workstations and a demonstration base, to help small farmers to plant grass and raise cattle by practicing the local mountain ecological circular agriculture mode. At present, there are 36 families raising cattle. Each family raises eight to ten cattle, with an annual income average increase by USD 3 900 .



Guide farmers to use straw cutting and rolling machine for cattle feeding

CATAS developments downy grape production in rocky desertification area

CATAS selected the first hermaphroditic variety of downy grape (*Vitis heyneana* Roem. et Schult) "Yeniang No.2", which is drought resistant and barren tolerant. It has a strong ability of vegetation restoration and soil and water conservation, and is very suitable for growing in rocky desertification areas.

In order to improve fruit quality and reduce labour intensity, CATAS has promoted and planted the new variety in rocky desertification areas of Guangxi, and customized the cultivation practices. At the same time, CATAS has developed a series of products such as wild downy grape wine and beverage, which has formed a complete industrial chain covering seedling, cultivation and processing links.



Downy grape planted in rocky desertification area and its products

© CATAS

FAO-AGRINATURA

Webinar on "Strengthening Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) in the context of sustainable agricultural development and food security"

The webinar on "Strengthening Agricultural innovation Systems (AIS) in the context of sustainable agricultural development and food security" jointly organized by FAO and Agrinatura took place virtually on 01 December 2020. The webinar aimed at presenting complementary and joint work areas of Agrinatura and FAO on strengthening AIS and partnerships between Universities and Research Centres throughout Europe and developing countries for inclusive, responsible and impactful agricultural innovations, in the context of sustainable agricultural development and food security.



The webinar was attended by 197 participants and was organized in two sessions:

- 1) Developing capacities to innovate at national and regional levels
- 2) Facilitating knowledge sharing and evidence-based policy processes



ILRI

The ILRI CapDev Grand Challenge - a pipeline for creating transformational next-generation livestock sector professionals

On 17 November 2020, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) launched the second cycle of the Capacity Development Grand Challenge (ILRI CapDev Grand Challenge). The Challenge is a 10-month process designed to equip young researchers with the interpersonal requisite and leadership skills - commonly referred to as soft skills - as they transition from graduate training mode into actors in national research and extension systems. Every year ILRI trains and mentors 150-200 graduate students and researchers from national programs in LMICs by inserting them in research projects. Although ILRI is not a degree-awarding institution, its scientists work closely with university supervisors in designing student research, co-supervision and training of students in technical research methodologies.



Discussion during the The CapDev Grand Challenge

The CapDev Grand Challenge process begins with a three-minute pitching contest where participants concisely present their research projects and findings to a panel of judges. The panel is comprised of at least a donor, communication expert, journalist, policy development expert, M&E expert and a researcher, who are all well informed of ILRI's mission and scope of research. The judges select and award 15 to 20 participants with the most successful pitches.

In the second part of the Challenge, all participants are trained on soft skills, and they are given mentorship talks by renowned personalities from diverse fields and regions across the globe. Award winners get sponsorship to attend at least two virtual conferences of their choice.

The CapDev Grand Challenge process will run from March to November 2021. Approximately 51 participants registered from 21 countries, covering Eastern Africa, West Africa, Southern Africa, Central Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia. A number of partners have registered their students and mentees to participate, as well as the International Foundation for Science, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), the University of Florida Feed the Future Livestock Systems Innovation Lab, the Afrique One ASPIRE PhD and MSc program and the PASET Regional Scholarship Innovation Fund PhD training at *icipe*.

Through the CapDev Grand Challenge process, ILRI intends to create a pipeline of transformational next-generation livestock sector professionals, with strong capabilities to communicate and use their scientific findings in a compelling way to inform and influence decision-makers. Ultimately, this process will result in an enabling environment for ILRI's research to be understood and adopted, thereby accelerating ILRI's research in transforming food systems to scale impact on society.

For more information and testimonials please visit: <https://www.ilri.org/news/capdev-grand-challenge-boosts-capacity-next-generation-livestock-researchers-influence-decision>

JIRCAS

JIRCAS 50th Anniversary International Symposium 2020

The Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) 50th Anniversary International Symposium 2020 featuring the theme, "The role of international collaboration in agricultural research to address challenges in the post-COVID-19 global food system" webinar was successfully held on 10 November 2020.



365 online participants attended the event.

For those who were not able to attend and want to check the contents of the presentations, please see the following links.

Information: <https://www.jircas.go.jp/en/symposium/2020/e20201110>

Report: <https://www.jircas.go.jp/en/reports/2020/r20201113>

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLd_qmyirYdYordCpUoOqk8QGXDAAaCBsxS.links

TAP-AIS project (EC Support Programme to TAP)

In Colombia, an Inception Workshop was held virtually on 4 February 2021, during which, more than 30 national and governmental institutions shared their views and started to identify needs and constraints to support the agricultural innovation agenda in the country. The meeting was opened by Alan Bojanic, FAO Representative in Colombia; Lucia Castillo, European Union Representative; Manuela Bucciarelli, MEL Specialist from FAO HQ; Marcos Rodríguez, Senior Consultant of FAO; Angelo Quintero, National Project Coordinator and representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; and Laura Vasquez, Country Project Manager. During the Workshop, participants shared information on the different initiatives of their 2021 agenda and highlighted the importance of creating synergies with the TAP-AIS project to strengthen the national AIS.



One of the tweets of the TAP Twitter account about the workshop in Colombia

The assessment process of the national AIS continued in several countries of the TAP-AIS project (i.e. Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Eritrea, and Lao PDR) and are about to start in Malawi and Rwanda. Between December 2020 and February 2021 participatory workshops and training for the assessment teams of Lao PDR, Malawi and Rwanda were conducted. These trainings are useful for refining the indicators, collecting data, sharing views on strengths and weaknesses of the national AIS as well as elaborating a narrative around an AIS profile.

As a result, teams composed of ten experts in each country have been trained on the AIS assessment framework and tools. In Malawi, a meeting with the other DeSIRA project implemented by CGIAR centres and led by the International Potato Center (CIP), was conducted and some areas for collaboration and synergies were identified.

In Burkina Faso, the capacity development phase of key organizations of the national Agricultural Innovation System (AIS) just started. For this, four organizations were selected in consultation with the main actors of the national AIS: the Directorate of Extension and Research and Development (DVRD), the National Agency for the Promotion of Research Results and Innovations (ANVAR), the Confédération Paysanne du Faso (CPF), and the

National Federation of Agro-Food and Transformation Industries of Burkina Faso (FIAB). Activities of this phase include the assessment of the capacity needs of the selected organizations and the strengthening of their capacity to collaborate and create synergies with other innovation support service providers. On this regard, a first meeting between the organizational assessment team of FAO and the representatives of FIAB was held on 09 February 2020 to discuss the setting up of "multiservice centre to support agro-food project leaders and companies". As a result, it was decided to create a pool of experts, who will strength the offer of support services of innovative and responsible entrepreneurship in the field of agri-food processing in the country.



Team of experts on organizational assessment of FAO Burkina Faso and representative of the FIAB

At regional level, regional research and extension organizations are working together to finalize the Joint Rapid Appraisals and to produce joint action plans to integrate and promote TAP tools to their respective organizations and in their partner organizations. A global synthesis report will be published in March 2021.

Additional information on the TAP-AIS project activities is available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/news/en/>



PAST EVENTS

FAO-AGREENIUM-UNESCAP TECHNICAL WEBINAR ON NUTRITION-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

The FAO e-learning Academy, Agreenium and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) organized an International Technical Webinar on Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture and Food Systems. The main objectives of this webinar was to:

- provide an overview of the existing resources on the formulation of nutrition-sensitive outcomes for sustainable food system policies, investments and programmes;
- understand current country needs to prioritize interventions; and
- share some examples and results of national research.

The webinar took place on 24 February 2021. Recording of the event is available through the FAO e-learning Academy: elearning.fao.org.

[PAST EVENTS]

FAO WEBINAR ON DIGITAL INNOVATION TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRANSFORM FOOD SYSTEMS

The aim of this event was to demonstrate the importance of technological innovation in agriculture to tackle climate change, increase food security and promote rural development. The webinar took place on Friday, 26 February 2021.

For more information please see the following link:

http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/digital-innovation-webinar/en/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social+media&utm_campaign=faoclimate

IICA FORUM ON BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN RURAL AREAS OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: TOWARDS A DIGITAL AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION

Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA) organized a forum on the role of information and communication technologies to improve rural living conditions.

The forum consisted of four sessions, and aimed at:

sharing information about digitalization opportunities and challenges;

- disseminating success stories and lessons learned from projects and public policies implemented in different Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries;
- sharing experiences about the use of ICT tools in rural areas; and
- defining elements for future projects on digital education in rural areas in LAC countries.

The sessions took place on 18, 23 and 25 February 2021. More information is available at the following link: <https://iica.int/en/press/events/bridging-digital-divide-rural-areas-latin-america-and-caribbean-towards-digital>



FARMING SYSTEM DESIGN WEBINARS - 22-25 MARCH, 2021

To foster and engage young researchers to design innovative future agri-food systems for a variety of dryland farming contexts, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Centre International de Hautes études Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM) Montpellier,



FAO and the Institution de la Recherche et de l' Enseignement Supérieur Agricoles (IRESA) of Tunisia organize a four-part Farming System Design (FSD) Webinar series on 22 - 25 March 2021 anticipating the Symposium. These approach the Capacity Development in Systems Research for the Transformation of Agri-Food Systems to achieve Sustainable Development Goals under climate change.

It is envisaged that these webinars will maintain momentum for the FSD7 Symposium which has been postponed by one year, to 20-23 March 2022, due to COVID-19.

Registration are now open and more information is available at the following link:

<https://fsd7.sciencesconf.org/resource/page/id/26>

GFRAS WEBINAR SERIES: MENTAL HEALTH & AGRICULTURE - 5, 12 AND 19 MARCH, 2021



This webinar series will discuss what is contributing to mental health issues in agriculture, present examples of protective and detrimental policies, how to reach out to provide

Successful interventions to agricultural populations, and showcase best-practice examples from the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) Network.

The webinars will take place on 5, 12 and 19 March, 2021, 14.00–16.00 pm CET. For more information, visit: <https://www.g-fras.org>

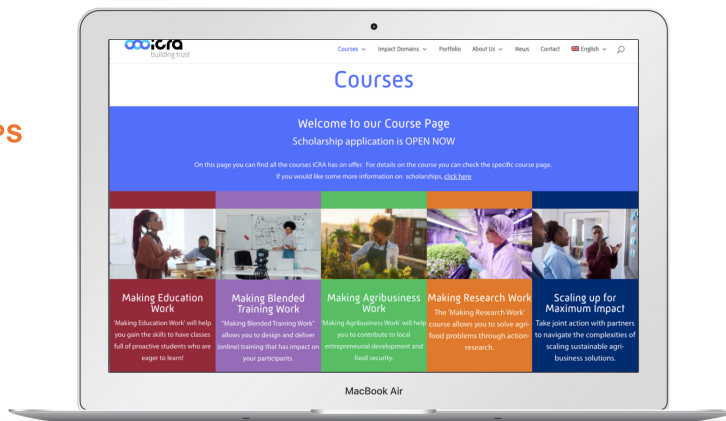
Kindly register at the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1lClrO-9R04nK7o-io4saUKTyB16wOQ5slKOAFh-eNjc/viewform?edit_requested=true

ICRA- NEW ONLINE COURSES AND SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

iCRA is offering, to researchers and educators, scholarships for online courses starting in August and November 2021. Scholarship application deadline is 22 March 2021. For more information, please visit the course webpage:

<https://www.icra.global/courses/>



JIRCAS - CALL FOR JAPAN INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR YOUNG AGRICULTURAL RESEARCHERS (JAPAN AWARD) 2021



The Japan award, which began in 2007, is organized and presented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan and Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS). Its purpose is to increase motivation among young researchers, contributing to research and development in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and related industries in developing regions, promoted by Japan for the benefit of those countries.

The deadline for application is 22 March 2021. Further information on the award, application guideline, and application forms are available at the following link:

https://www.jircas.go.jp/en/young_award/2021

Contact the TAP Secretariat

TAP is a G-20 initiative launched in 2012 to promote agricultural innovation in the tropics. TAP has formed a coalition of more than 40 partners. Its main goal is to strengthen agricultural innovation systems (AIS) in developing countries through coordinated multi-stakeholder interventions.

TAP Secretariat,
 Research and Extension Unit (OINR), Office for Innovation (OIN),
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153, Rome, Italy
 E-mail: Tropagplatform@fao.org
 Website: www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform



Since August 2019 the EU supports TAP through the project "Developing capacities in agricultural innovation systems: scaling up the TAP Framework" (TAP-AIS), implemented by FAO.