



## Global partnership on capacity development for agricultural innovation system (CDAIS) officially launched

A unique partnership was launched in Rome on March 6th. This partnership will combine the strengths of the AGRINATURA network of European research and education organizations with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to strengthen agricultural innovation around the globe.

Efforts to strengthen capacity in “Agricultural Innovation Systems”, including those supported by Europe, have so far predominately focused on developing individual competencies. They have not given sufficient attention to organisational capabilities and the systemic capacity of innovation partnerships. The Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS) Project will specifically address these different dimensions, and promote coherence and sustainability of actions to improve agricultural innovation.

CDAIS is funded by the European Commission, through a €12 million grant agreement to AGRINATURA. This 4-year project will further develop and strengthen the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP), a global platform hosted by the FAO to promote and share capacity development experience and expertise in AIS. In addition, AGRINATURA will lead the implementation of specific project actions to strengthen innovation systems in eight pilot countries: Angola, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Laos, Niger and Rwanda.

In its first year, the partnership will elaborate a vision on capacity development for agricultural innovation systems, based on global frameworks developed by the TAP as well as scoping studies to identify the main players and forms of organization in each pilot country. This will ensure that CDAIS operates through the most appropriate mechanism at the country level. Based on general principles from the TAP, capacity development needs and interventions will then be tailored to the specific needs of each country. By the end of the project, the partnership will have demonstrated how improved capacity in AIS can have an impact on the lives of the rural poor, and will have developed guides to policy formulation and future investments on capacity development for agriculture innovation system that can be extended to other countries.

The CDAIS project will thus both mobilize political support at global and country level through FAO/TAP and benefit from the technical support from AGRINATURA - a network of 31 Universities and Research Institutes, with over 2000 professionals from 18 European countries. Coupled with the efforts of national stakeholders and experts, the partnership will help ensure that future agricultural innovation systems improve the livelihoods of farmers, agricultural entrepreneurs and consumers.

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### AGRINATURA-EEIG members in CDAIS



Supporting the action plan of TAP. Funded by the European Commission.