

Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions



Capability Statement

APAARI is an apolitical, regional organization established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It is working as a vibrant network of over 80 members and numerous partners from national agricultural research systems (NARS), international agricultural research centres – higher education, civil society – farmer and women organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector. Our collaboration in the areas of knowledge management (KM), capacity development and advocacy on issues of critical importance to Asia-Pacific drives APAARI towards realization of its Vision – “Strengthened Agri-food Research and Innovation Systems” for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



*A farmer husking paddy, Rangamati, Bangladesh
(International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development)*



Scientists studying mung bean in Seed Research and Development Center in Phitsanulok, Thailand (APAARI)

What we do

APAARI works at a two levels. Firstly, based in Bangkok, Thailand, the APAARI Secretariat plays key role in coordination, facilitation, mobilization of collective action for its members in Asia-Pacific. Secondly, APAARI works as a Community that helps the Association diversify and enhance its role by capitalizing on the strengths of its members and partners to collectively deliver results that contribute to the achievement of the APAARI Vision and the SDGs.

An intermediary...

Deploying research and science for innovation and development requires capacity and strong links among users of research outputs, as well as innovative processes to make those links work. In the dynamic and rapidly changing context of agri-food systems, APAARI is filling this gap as a vital intermediary that is bridging and bringing together a range of different organizations and knowledge needed to create successful agricultural innovations. APAARI is recognized as playing a central role in catalyzing, promoting and facilitating technology transfer through innovation processes and learning in food and agriculture, thereby, shaping local, national and regional development.

An innovation platform...

As an innovation platform facilitating face-to-face and online interactions, APAARI is creating an environment to share and discuss ideas, listen and learn, think and talk, and bring out the voices of women and youth, which leads to the sharing of common and new issues, joint exploration of opportunities and solutions, collaboration, as well as influencing strategies and policies to promote agri-food innovations. As an active partner of the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP), APAARI has fully embraced the development of functional capacities (soft skills) for innovation in its projects and programmes and developed a model based on the blending of technical and functional capacities to support innovation processes in Asia-Pacific and beyond.



APAARI Executive Committee Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand (APAARI)



Training programme for input dealers, Anand, India (Assam Agricultural University)



Launch of Big Data in Agriculture Platform of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, Hyderabad, India (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics)



Women packing lychee in Phayao, Thailand (Department of Agriculture, Thailand)

The difference we make

Networking – Connecting member institutions and individuals with our vibrant network of national, regional and global stakeholders.

Capacity development – Funding and facilitating member participation in programmes that build their technical skills and functional capacities (soft skills) to better support sustainable transformation of agri-food systems.

Policy dialogue – Creating opportunities for members and partners to engage in policy dialogue on science-based options for sustainable agri-food systems.

Knowledge management – Sharing knowledge and experience, facilitating learning, disseminating research outputs, and providing guidance of our members on agricultural research and science.

Information management – Facilitating data collection on the inputs, performance, and outcomes of agri-food research and innovation systems to assist policymakers and leaders of the NARS to better manage agricultural research institutions, improve imbalances among research staff, enhance research prioritization and more effectively allocate research funds.

Advocacy – Using evidence to advocate: policies for increased and improved national, regional and global investments in agri-food research and innovation systems; reforms for agricultural education institutions to better respond to the dynamics of agri-food systems; and improved agricultural innovation strategies based on the Agricultural Innovation System perspective.

Our approach

Guided by the APAARI Vision 2030 and Strategic Plan 2017-2022, while aligned with the SDGs, APAARI works with its members and partners to address the priority thematic areas to benefit small farmers and achieve more sustainable agri-food systems in Asia-Pacific:

- Mobilization, management and use of natural resources
- Management of risks and uncertainties
- Inclusive development and integration of value chains
- Analysis, strengthening and formulation of public policies and overarching regulatory frameworks

The following key programmes and activities address these areas, including crosscutting approaches to women and youth, and foresight and visioning:

- Knowledge management
- Partnership and networking
- Capacity development
- Advocacy



Discussion during the Expert Consultation on Agricultural Biotechnology, Bangkok, Thailand (APAARI)

Quick facts

Establishment: In 1990 by FAO, and Governments of China, Fiji, India, Iran, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Western Samoa.

Key supporters: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Council of Agriculture (COA) Taiwan, FAO, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), European Union (EU) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Key partners: Members of APAARI from across Asia-Pacific and development organizations from around the world.

Key expertise of the APAARI Secretariat

Specialized Technical Areas – APAARI secretariat offers a network of national, regional, and global technical experts in the field of agricultural biotechnology and bioresources, biosecurity, biodiversity, compliances to sanitary and phytosanitary measures of WTO, and food systems, and work towards research prioritization, public awareness, policies, regulatory harmonization and capacity building.

Agricultural data management – APAARI coordinates and oversees the collection, compilation, analysis and publishing of high-quality agricultural R&D data, relating to institutional developments, investments, outputs and human resource capacity in low-and middle-income countries, providing evidence for policymakers, researchers, and donors in support of enhanced investment in agri-food research and innovations.

Agricultural education – Utilizing multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral expertise, APAARI facilitates policy dialogue with agricultural education institutions and develops capacities for innovation bringing mindset shift and leading to reforms required to address the complex and interrelated economic, social and environmental sustainability challenges facing agri-food systems today.

Knowledge management – APAARI is playing a key role in facilitating the generation, adaptation, transfer and dissemination of scientific knowledge needed for scaling up and out of successful innovations. Through publication of success stories, facilitation of knowledge sharing and learning, and face-to-face and online engagement of stakeholders, APAARI is creating a stronger regional knowledge base to better support decision and policymaking processes.

Strategy and policy advisory – APAARI is capitalizing on its strategic partnerships, particularly targeting high-level government officials, leaders and managers of NARS, as well as sub-regional bodies, including the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Pacific Community, to discuss and facilitate strategies and policies that improve the enabling environment for fostering agricultural and agri-food research and innovation, including compliances to international agreements such as those of WTO for agricultural trade facilitation and the Convention of Biodiversity for agro-biodiversity related matters.



Discussion on the Expert Consultation on Best Practices in Agri-Food Innovation in Asia and the Pacific, Taichung, Taiwan (APAARI)



Walking cattle in Vietnam (International Livestock Research Institute)

Project Development

Through technical support in the formulation of new projects, resource mobilization, identification and scoping of new projects, as well as enhancement of partnership and membership with relevant stakeholders, APAARI facilitates access of its members to innovative projects, activities and knowledge sharing that build their capacities needed to strengthen agri-food and agricultural innovation systems (AIS).

Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL)

APAARI has adopted and promotes a MEL framework based on good practices and experiences of national and international organizations. It is based on: (i) the 'Impact Pathway Analysis' (IPA) for investments and interventions; (ii) identification of users of M&E information and the likely use of this information in learning, reporting actions and developing broad and specific performance questions; (iii) identification of what needs to be measured to answer the performance questions; and (iv) application of mixed quantitative and qualitative methods needed to measure indicators on progress towards 'thematic' outcomes.



Volunteer facilitator instructing farmers on proper varietal selection, Cotabato, Philippine (International Rice Research Institute)



Sharing of ideas between participants of the Knowledge Management for more effective Agricultural Innovation System Workshop, Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) (APAARI)

Join us/partner with us

To achieve higher impact, APAARI seeks to attract new members from NARS HEIs, international agricultural research centres, civil society and the private sector.

Contact

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Key achievements (2014-2020)

Between 1990-2013, APAARI became a dynamic institution in a fast-changing agri-food environment while pursuing its vision, goals, and objectives. To respond to the evolving agri-food landscape and meet the needs of our Members, APAARI has revised and amended its Constitution, refined its priorities and initiated administrative reforms to enhance performance at the national, sub-regional and regional levels, and diversified its activities. By optimizing the use of regional assets through knowledge-sharing and capacity development activities, APAARI has played a central role in harnessing agricultural science for strengthened agri-food research and innovation systems in Asia-Pacific. To date, it organized 55 expert consultations, published 62 success stories, and issued 48 newsletters, among many other achievements. APAARI's key achievements between 2014-2020 include:

- 2,820 participants were supported by APAARI through various capacity development programme (28 per cent of these were women)
- 29 such programmes, including expert consultations and policy dialogue, were organized or sponsored by APAARI
- Nine webinars with participation of 781 people were facilitated
- Members increased by 47 per cent
- Staff increased by 67 per cent
- Thirteen success stories were published
- Sub-regional partnership strengthened, particularly with (ASEAN), and Pacific Community (SPC) leading to the planning of joint projects
- Surveys were conducted with 400 agricultural research agencies in Southeast Asia and the Pacific on agricultural investment

Quick facts

Key ongoing initiatives: Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology and Bioresources, Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators, Asia Pesticide Residue Mitigation through the Promotion of Biopesticides, Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions, Manifesto for a new vision of Research and Innovation in support of Forgotten Foods, Improving Phytosanitary Trade Compliance in Bangladesh, Afro-Asian Consortium on Smart Food, and Centre of Excellence on Value Chains.

Past initiatives: E-agriculture, Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS), and Sectoral Review of Agriculture and Rural Statistics in Asia-Pacific

APAARI is a member of the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) hosted by FAO and is currently the Chair of TAP.