



3rd GFRAS Annual Meeting

The Role of Rural Advisory Services in Agricultural Innovation Systems

26-28 September 2012, Manila, Philippines

Call and Guidelines for Inputs for Plenary, Share Fair, and Side Events

The 3rd GFRAS Annual Meeting

The 3rd Annual Meeting of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services ([GFRAS](#)) will take place on 26-28 September at [The Heritage Hotel](#), Manila, the Philippines, hosted by the Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services ([APIRAS](#)) Network. The meeting will contribute to thematic exchange on rural advisory services (RAS) and give participants the opportunity to discuss GFRAS strategic directions and functioning. Between 75 and 150 participants are expected. While the main meeting language is English, simultaneous interpretation from/into Spanish and French will be provided if needed. The rationale, objectives, thematic focus, and structure of the 3rd GFRAS Annual Meeting are explained in the meeting [announcement](#).

Inputs by Participants

In addition to group work, participants have three opportunities to actively contribute to the 3rd GFRAS annual meeting: giving an input to the plenary session, contributing to the share fair, and/or organising a side event.

Input to the plenary

Participants will share their experiences and lessons learnt on how RAS can contribute to agricultural innovation systems (AIS), on challenges and success factors, on capacities needed by individuals, organisations, and extension systems to perform their role in AIS, and on which incentives and enabling environment are required. Based on the inputs participants will discuss lessons learnt in groups and conclude with recommendations to GFRAS, regional fora, and [GCARD](#) 2012. Expected outputs of this session are: a) lessons learnt on the role of RAS in AIS, and b) recommendations on how to strengthen the important role of RAS in AIS at all geographic levels, by interaction between the regions, and in the work of individual participants.

Participants who are interested to contribute to this plenary session should send a short (1-2 page) proposal for the input to the GFRAS secretariat (dorothee.loetscher@g-fras.org). The proposal should give details on:

- Title of the input
- Content: contextualisation, key arguments, conclusions, discussion points
- Relevance and value added of the input for the discussion on the role of RAS in AIS
- Methodology and form of the input (presentation, posters, video, other)
- Contact details, including e-mail address and phone number

Inputs to the plenary will take a maximum 15 minutes, followed by discussion. Please mention in the [registration form for the 3rd GFRAS Annual Meeting](#) that you have applied to give an input. Only applications of registered participants will be considered.

Input proposals will be reviewed and selected by the organising committee¹ and thematically clustered into sub-sessions. Selection criteria are:

- Relevance and value added of the input for the discussion on the role of RAS in AIS
- Possibility to cluster the input with other proposed inputs in a thematic sub-session
- Diversity of all selected inputs in regards to content, methodology, and geographic region
- Feasibility in regards to time and equipment needed

The committee will also make suggestions for the final input. Some inputs that are not accepted for the plenary session may be invited to the share fair.

Timeframe:

Activity	Due date
Registration for the 3 rd GFRAS Annual Meeting	10 June if applying for sponsorship 22 July if self-sponsored participant
Proposal for a plenary input on the role of RAS in AIS	22 July
Information on acceptance or rejection of proposal by organising committee	13 August
Input (e.g. poster, ppt-presentation) elaborated and sent to the moderator	24 August
Input reviewed by the moderator and finalised	7 September
Input presented to the plenary	26-28 September

Contribution to the share fair

The share fair will give participants the opportunity to share and discuss experience of new approaches, projects, programmes, institutional and organisational arrangements, and policies in RAS. This session will not focus on a specific theme, but rather help to identify new areas of interest and interaction. The share fair will contribute to sharing of information and the creation of links and partnerships between participants. Expected outputs of the share fair are a) new areas of interest and interaction in RAS identified and shared, b) informal partnerships created, and c) regions and sub-regions present themselves.

Participants are called to prepare creative and interactive inputs using tools and methods such as mini workshops, videos, panels, posters, theatres, etc. Each contribution will take 10 minutes, followed by a 15 minute discussion. Interested participants will organise their contribution independently, logistically supported by GFRAS.

Participants who are interested to contribute to the share fair can send a short (1-2 page) description of their contribution to the GFRAS secretariat (dorothee.loetscher@g-fras.org). The description should give details on:

- Title of the share fair contribution

¹ The organising committee consists of three representatives from regional RAS fora (Virginia Cardenas, [APIRAS](#), Silim M. Nahdy, [AFAAS](#), Francisco Aguirre, [RELASER](#)), one representative of the international development institutions (Riikka Rajalahti, [World Bank](#)), and two staff of the [GFRAS secretariat](#) (Kristin Davis, executive secretary, Dorothee Lötscher, programme officer)

- Methodology, form, and process of the input (mini workshops, videos, panels, posters, theatres, etc.)
- Content: short description of the presented approach, project, programme, institution, policies, etc. and its value added for RAS
- List of needed material and equipment
- Contact details of the contributor, including e-mail address and phone number

Please mention in the [registration form for the 3rd GFRAS Annual Meeting](#) that you have applied for a contribution of the share fair. Only applications of registered participants will be considered.

Inputs submitted will be selected by the organising committee¹. Selection criteria are:

- Value added for RAS
- Diversity in regards to content, methodology, and geographic region
- Feasibility in regards to time and equipment

Timeframe:

Activity	Due date
Registration for the 3 rd GFRAS Annual Meeting	10 June if applying for sponsorship 22 July if self-sponsored participant
Application for a contribution to the share fair	22 July
Information on the decision of the organising committee	13 August
Contribution to the share fair	26-28 September

Organising a side event

Regional and sub-regional fora are invited to gather their members in Manila to prepare a joint position before the 3rd GFRAS Annual Meeting, to plan cross-regional partnerships, or to discuss other concerns. Other stakeholders may also take the opportunity to organise side events. Organisers of the side events will be responsible for their own content and logistics (venue, equipment, food), but benefit from synergies with the 3rd GFRAS Annual Meeting. Side events will be announced in the GFRAS programme. For further questions contact dorothee.loetscher@g-fras.org.

Timeframe:

Please inform the GFRAS secretariat (dorothee.loetscher@g-fras.org) on planned side events (title, organiser, date, time, and venue) by August 10 at the latest.

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