Extension and Technology

Xiangping Jia, Cl

Aires was a wonderful

CAC-FRAS

many voluminous for knowledge exchange

There are

and investors targeting ICT and extension in extension.

GFRAS

Global Good Practice

available in the public domain

hat covers various aspects of ru

advisory service RAS, extension, an

find it difficult to make use of th

September

young and we need to learn from other countries about their experiences **GFRAS Strategic Framework** Currently we are working at the National Extension Strategy together with FAO. On to form a country forum." Head of Agriculture and Food

in Issyk Kul was very useful

advisory services system is still very

From 4–26 June 2015, AESA organise

topic with a special focus to India Working paper by AESA

RELASER country fora were

28–30 October, Santa Marta Colombia

certification in Europe by joining the

Edgars Linde, Board memeber at Latvian

Fernando Manzo Ramo

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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, Switzerland **Evaluation – International Reference Group**

Members: Magdalena Blum (FAO), Pierre Labarthe (INRA), Brent Simps (MEAS), Dan Kisauzi (AFAAS), Hur Ben Correa da Silva (RELASER), John

African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services AFAAS, Uganda **Gender Equality in Rural Advisory Services**

Agridea, Switzerland

Rollover from 2014 Expenses in 2015 Support to regions

Members: Tunji Arokoyo (Nigerian Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services

Sigman (MEAS), Austen Moore (MEAS), Delgerma Chuluunbaatar (FAO),

Hajnalka Petrics (FAO), Oladele Oladimeji (North West University Mafikeng

(GFRAS), Harry Palmier (GFAR), Lola Gaparova (CAC-FRAS), Mohamed Abdel

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Executive Secretary

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Programme Officer

Management fees and overhead

Amount in USD

Amount in US

the report is released.

Consultants and special projects

Publications, website and communications

Meetings, workshops

Financial contributions realised in 2015

The GFRAS accounting is integrated in the accounting of its host AGRIDEA

Latin American Network for Rural Extension Services RELASER, Brazil The Global Forum

West and Central African Network for Rural Advisory Services RESCAR-AOC

GFRAS was supported in 2015 by the Swiss Agency for Development Intercorporation, presented several studies on advisory practice in and Cooperation (SDC), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für International usammenarbiet (GIZ), the United States Agency for International Development

http://www.g-fras.org/hanoi

Bangladesh, China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Nepal, and Vietnam, as well as a synthesis of the cases. The participants, including several representatives from the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR) through funding from the development programmes, and formulated recommendations for overseas European Union (EU). The table below shows the income in 2015 by contributor. development assistance and local stakeholders. The event concluded with t Hanoi Statement on Rural Advisory Services Systems, which can be found at

The workshop also was the stage for two GFRAS activities: First the Meko

Extension Learning Alliance (MELA) was initiated. MELA represents a new

regional RAS network that comprises Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia

and Vietnam. The name MELA is very appropriate for this network, being

Sanskirt word meaning 'a gathering' or 'large meeting'. Secondly the GFRA

publication "Producer Organisations in Rural Advisory Services: Evidence a

Experiences" was launched. This publication is based on a series of GFRAS

events and initiatives since 2013 and raises awareness of the roles of produ

organisations in rural advisory services, and contributes to discussions abou

how their effectiveness in these roles can be increased so that they contribut

in the provision of rural advisory services, including producer organisations

personal commitments to take the discussions further and stimulate change

f Uganda, Tress Buchanayandi, officially opened the meeting. When he

addressed the gathering, the Honourable Minister put aside his prepared

Advisory Services (AFAAS) compared the agricultural extension to a broke

pipe. While on one hand there are drops from research and other actors fillin

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries

themselves. It can be downloaded from the GFRAS website.

to improved livelihoods and poverty reduction. It is aimed at all actors involved

s", facilitated by HELVETAS

What were the particular topics that were discussed? The Dominican Republic wanted to know more about the different extension approaches Nicaragua is using, how the different actors participate in the have access to these and suffer from undying thirst as a result of the broken system, and how we deal with the costs. Then we talked about the role the public sector has in this system and what the relationship between research and Representing GIZ, Mr Christian Koenigsperger presented the One Worldextension looks like. The Dominicans wanted to learn how to bring all public

(enabling environment) levels if extension is to better contribute to agricultura

The idea for these exchanges of innovations in extension was born

for International Development (USAID)-funded project Modernizing

Extension and Advisory Services (MEAS) in Montevideo, Uruguay, in October

2014. The institute brought together agriculture experts from Latin America

to discuss new strategies and learn from each other's experiences. At the end

peer-to-peer exchange. On this occasion the Dominican Republic teamed up

Fundación para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Agropecuario y Forestal de Nicaragua

of that event each country proposed topics on which it would like to have

during an event organised by RELASER and the United States Agency

development amidst current complexities

By Hlami Ngwenya and Kristin Davis

FUNICA reports on the experience.

the experiences other countries have in this regard

No Hunger initiative, within which the Green Innovation Centers for the and private actors together to widen the coverage of extension and base it on Agriculture and Food Sector program is anchored. Under this programme (ne demand of the farmers. collaborates with GFRAS in strengthening agricultural extension and advisor nd what did vou learn for Nicaragua? services in the implementing countries. I learned that Nicaragua has a great variety of experiences in extension that it Addressing the media Dr Kristin Davis, Executive Secretary of GFRA doesn't really share. Especially in Central America where culture, challenges explained the concept of the 'New Extensionist', which is organised are and opportunities of agriculture are very similar, innovation exchanges like the the agricultural innovation systems approach. Kristin Davis emphasised tl one I attended could be a good method to transfer knowledge between all critical role that extension plays in enabling agricultural innovation, and she ountries and thereby bring their rural development forward advocated for renewed capacities at individual, organisational, and system

Institutional Development Manager, FUNICA, Nicaragua

Agricultural Innovation Systems (GGP Note #13)

Enabling Rural Innovation (GGP Note #5)

Farmer-to-farmer Extension (GGP Note #7)

Farmer Field Schools (GGP Note #2)

• The Role of Producer Organisations in RAS (GGP Note #12

The Global Good Practices Initiative of GFRAS aims to bridge thi

gap by providing information about RAS approaches and methods

2015 15 "Good Practice Note on various topics. They are available at www.

Management Advice for Family Farms to Strengthen Entrepreneurial Ski

• Community Knowledge Workers for Rural Advisory Services (GGP Note #14)

tterextension.org So far the following GGP Notes are available

easy-to-understand formats. As part of this effort, it published i

Whether as stand-alone or embedded in existing agricultural policies there is a need for thorough review of RA of the current challenges. The meeting called for more political will and rgency in adopting evidence-based policy processes and for countries to have fully legislated RAS policies that provide a legal frame for coordination

f pluralistic extension services, thus providing enabling policies for the 'Ne st'. Beyond the call for the political will, the individuals also made

and as such is submitted to a yearly audit. Further contributions are audited What where the topics that brought the two countries together? peech and spoke from the heart. He shared about the evolution of agricultura on request by some donors. The audit in 2015 was done by the Financial The Dominican Republic has recently put forward a proposal to renew its extension in Uganda and the need for the 'modern extension' in coping with Administration of the Canton of Wallis, Switzerland. As the final audit report extension services with the aim to better reach the farmer, to meet their diverse challenges in assuring the profitability of farming enterprise. wasn't available at the printing date of this publication, the table with 2015 demand, and to take into account the changing environment for agriculti r Silim Nahdy, Executive Director of the African Forum for Agricultural expenditures will be placed on the GFRAS website at www.g-fras.org wh this process the Ministry of Agriculture has expressed its interest to learn from

within their own mandates and areas of influence.



practices. who bear a responsibility and play an important part in the learning cle too. They are advised to be open, flexible, and innovative to see and e good practices not as one-size-fits-all solutions, but rather as input and lithout feedback on good practices by end users an improvement of the best fit considerations and the practice itself is not possible.

Participants recognised the crucial brokering role that RAS, and regional RAS Navigating ICTs for Extension and Advisory Services (GGP Note #11)

At the GFRAS Annual Meeting 2015 in Kyrgyzstan, 130 participants

using, and adapting good practices are part of a wider and complex

earning process in RAS. They discussed that learning happens at different

participants agreed that a good practice must be end-user oriented, demand

riven, and include best-fit considerations. While it is important to note that

there is no 'bad practice' as long as we learn from it, for good practices to be

eally useful and beneficial for the end-users, we need to strategically decide

As success and failure of RAS approaches, tools, and methods highly depend

and document them as well. What are the contextual factors (such as the

the context, we must include considerations of best-fit into our good practices

political, economic, socio-cultural environment) and the general characteristics

practice? In which contexts do we have to expect challenges in implementing it

of RAS in the specific geographical entity that influence the success of a good

what, when, and how we share our experiences.

moments, can be implicit or explicit, and is a complex and continuous cycle

of 54 countries and 12 regional networks argued that sharing, discussing

involving many actors at different stages within agricultural innovation systems

mExtension – Mobile Phones for Agricultural Advisory Services (GGP Note i in order to be fully able to do so they need strengthened skills and capacities, and fora under GFRAS guidance and support, when needed. Mobile Based Bundled Services (GGP Note #3) an enhanced exchange with the clientele, especially with producers and Transparency: GFRAS is governed and its activities implemented in a producer organisations, use new tools and means, especially those provided by Rural Resource Centres: A Community Approach to Agricultural Extension asparent and inclusive way, respecting the opinions and approaches of a ICTs, and support inclusive RAS environments that include all actors from al actors involved. All created information is shared and in the public domain. gender and age. Social Media for Rural Advisory Services (GGP Note #15)

But the participants also addressed the end-users and clientele of good

networks and country fora, play in this learning cycle within the AIS. However,

The participants concluded with a series of recommendations to enhan ng Radio in Agricultural Extension (GGP Note #18) efficient learning in RAS which you can find in the full proceedings of /ideos for Agricultural Extension (GGP Note #6) Annual Meeting 2015 at http://www.g-fras.org/en/events/gfras-events/ann

Web Portals for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (GGP Note #1 Integration Gender into RAS (GGP Note #4)

Integrating Nutrition into RAS (GGP Note #9)

mission, and guiding principles, which are derived from two theoretical frameworks: agricultural innovation systems and capacity development. It will be implemented across three strategic fields of action. Each of these fields will work at three different **levels**: individual, organisational, and system

Strategic field 2: Professionalisation of rural advisory services

Goal: Enhanced learning in rural advisory services in India. The lack of policies related to capacity development has resulted in principles are reflected in all activities and are the foundation on which the

 Demand-driven and accountability: GFRAS promotes advisory services that are driven by and accountable to the clientele of RAS

coordination to synergise work from various actors



hich should be the starting point for organising capacity development.

highlighted by the Twelfth Plan Working Group on Agricultural Extension

a prerequisite for achieving a faster, sustainable, and more inclusive growth

gaps and needs for training planning. The recommendation further include

trengthening of institutions like the National Institute of Extension Management MANAGE, the Extension Education Institutes EEIs and the State

The working group has made a proposal to elaborate a human resource

Goal: Strengthened performance of rural advisory services

The AESA workshop identified the lack of such a framework as the main nowledge generation and exchange challenge in organising relevant capacity development programmes for EA Our quiding principles define how and with whom GFRAS works. The

• Pluralism and partnership: Working with a wide range of actors in the

hough a range of tools and approaches exist for assessing capacity at different

iational institutions, governance, and economic management. Another issue

In India the importance of developing new capacities in EAS has been

BY NC

Banana: Yosef Hadar, World Bank

Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institutes SAMETIs to enhance

Rice farmer: Phippe Berry, IFPRI

Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS)

3: Danilo Salvedra

5: Nurbek Saniar

8315 Lindau. Switzerland

lack of coordination among the different training organisations. There is no induction training for EAS which would be essential for orienting the staff with

the values and approaches of EAS. Moreover, there are no mechanisms for monitoring the effectives of these training programmes

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Vegetables: Arne Hoel, World Bank

6: Simone D. McCourtie, World Bank

understanding of what capacity and capacity development mean. To some the

terms are synonymous with workshops and trainings. For senior managers, Evidence-based approaches: GFRAS focuses on evidence-based measures an might mean organisational development. non-governmental organisations (NGOs) associate the terms with empowering individuals and grassroots *Subsidiarity*: Processes and initiatives are led by relevant lower-level actors organisations. And for international agencies and donors, it is all about

is the lack of systematic efforts to identify the capacity needs of EAS providers.

levels, the tools are not used in designing capacity development interventions Alignment: GFRAS' work is based on strategies aligned to wider efforts

among international development institutions and their policies and

Monitoring, evaluation, and learning: Enhanced learning is a core element of onstituted by the Indian Planning Commission. The working group reiterates GFRAS, and it has a monitoring and evaluation framework for this purpose.

It also works towards and promotes better monitoring, evaluation, and that a strong, vibrant and responsive extension with an expanded mandate is

learning within all activities related to advisory services.

through agriculture. The group also recommends that annual competen To achieve its mission and vision. GFRAS focuses on three strategic fields of

The GFRAS strategic framework 2016-2025 is rooted in its vision. assessment of every extension personnel may be done to identify capacity

1: Advocacy and support for an enabling policy environme

nd appropriate investment in rural advisory services

Increased recognition of rural advisory services in policies and

their capacity and support capacity building of extension professionals.

development policy for extension in agriculture and allied sectors based on a census of extension service providers and supported by agricultural extensior Strategic field 3: Facilitation and enhancement of effective and continuous

You can find the full GFRAS Strategic Framework at www.q-fras.org/strategy

innovation system strengthens the forum through synergies, and creates efficacy and joint ownership. GFRAS also facilitates harmonisation an

will hold similar workshops in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in 2016 and use findings to develop a facilitators guide for capacity assessment in EAS

The full report "Assessing Capacity Development Needs of Extension and

Agricultural Advisory Services" can be found on www.aesa-gfras.net. AESA

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