

2014: Looking back

Function 1: Providing a voice within global policy dialogues and promoting improved investment in RAS

Demanding and Supplying Effective Rural Advisory Services: The Role of Farmer Organisations

The GFRAS side event at the Farmer Forum of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on 20 February, Rome, Italy, presented a discussion paper elaborated as an output of the 4th GFRAS Annual Meeting 2013 in Berlin, Germany.

Function 2: Supporting the development and synthesis of evidence-based approaches of RAS

Global Good Practices Initiative

The first three Global Good Practice Notes started the series of easily accessible and easy-to-understand short publications on theoretical and practical know-how for RAS practitioners.

Extension and Technology Transfer Systems in Latin America: Recommendations for Reforms and Investments for Rural Extension Services (RELASER)

RAS Policies – Evidence and Practice

5th GFRAS Annual Meeting 23–25 September, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Regional Conference on Rural Advisory Services (RAS) in Central Asia and the Caucasus

The event established a common understanding on status, strengths, and weaknesses of the RAS systems in the region by sharing and discussing a mapping study of the RAS systems in the different countries. 17–21 September, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

GFRAS Consortium on Extension Education and Training

Face-to-Face meeting to continue developing the New Extensionist Learning Kit Pretoria, South Africa, 29–30 January

Workshop to Formalise the Network for Rural Advisory Services in West and Central Africa RESCAR-AOC

18–20 February, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Southern African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (SARFAAS)

Launch of the Southern African sub-regional network for RAS 13–17 April, Boksburg, South Africa

The Role of Agricultural Extension Systems in Central Asia and the Caucasus Countries

Online consultations and discussion organised by CAC-FRAS 6 May–9 June

Mekong Extension Learning Alliance (MELA): Inaugural meeting

Vientiane, Laos, 26–28 August

Exchanges of Innovations in Extension

RELASER, MEAS, and FAO organised a series of bilateral workshops where two countries exchanged their experience and ideas on agricultural innovation and extension policy. The countries involved were Peru–Mexico, Paraguay–Uruguay, Costa Rica–Honduras, Bolivia–Ecuador, and Colombia–Chile August 2015, various locations

Strengthening Agriculture and Forestry Research and Extension Linkages for Sustainable Food Security and Trade

24–28 August, Apia, Samoa

GFRAS Annual Meeting 2015: Global Good Practices in Rural Advisory Services

The 6th GFRAS Annual Meeting took place from 14–17 September 2015, with side events on 14 and 18 September. Organised around the topic of Global Good Practices, the event challenged participants to reflect on the process of generating, documenting, sharing, testing, and adapting knowledge and good practices in rural advisory services (RAS). 14–17 September, Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan

Workshop on the New Extensionist – Testing of the Introductory Learning Kit Module

The New Extensionist Learning Kit is a learning resource for individual extension field staff, managers, and lecturers. It contains 13 modules that have been identified by the GFRAS Consortium on Extension Education and Training as core competencies for individual extension agents. The kit focuses on functional skills and will be available for self-directed, face-to-face, or blended learning towards the end of 2016. Accra, Ghana 3–7 August Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 14–18 December

Global Good Practice Initiative

There is plenty of information available in the public domain that covers various aspects of rural advisory service RAS, extension, and know-how about new methodologies for implementation. However this information is often scattered and presented in complex academic language. Hence practitioners, who often have very limited time and/or may only have basic formal education, find it difficult to make use of this information. 18 notes published in September

GFRAS Strategic Framework 2016–2025

GFRAS began operations in 2010. It evolved out of a series of discussions at international meetings (primarily the annual meetings of the Neuchâtel Initiative) where the need for a formal structure to proactively promote the development of rural advisory services was recognised, and various options were considered. The forum is thus the result of several years of demand from and consultation between stakeholders in rural advisory services worldwide. After five years of activities GFRAS comprises 12 regional and sub-regional networks (see map on back page) and 27 country fora. The initial strategic framework ended in 2015, so a core group of the network started to elaborate a new strategic framework in 2014. It followed a participatory approach where GFRAS stakeholders, members, and affiliates were involved actively in the process. The strategic framework 2016–2025 was approved by the GFRAS steering committee in September 2015 and launched at the GFRAS Annual Meeting 2015. A five-year operational plan concretises the goals formulated in strategic framework.

Assessing Capacity Development Needs of Extension and Advisory Services

From 4–26 June 2015, AESA organised an e-discussion on Capacity Development for Extension and Advisory Service Providers in South Asia. Together with an extensive literature review on capacity development and interactions with different stakeholders involved in capacity development of RAS in India, this e-discussion led to an AESA working paper giving an overview of topic with a special focus to India. Working paper by AESA published in September 2015

The 'New Extensionist': Core competencies for Individuals

GFRAS Brief #3

Series of Policy Dialogues on National and Regional Level in South America

Events organised by the Latin America Network for Rural Extension Services, RELASER

Social Media Policy Guidelines for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

With the increased potential of social media to share views and ideas and easy access to information, discretion becomes important for organisations to maintain professionalism in a new social world. A publication by the GFRAS ICT Interest Group

The Role of RAS for Inclusive Agripreneurship

GFRAS Annual Meeting 2016 Hosted by the West and Central African Network for RAS RESCAR-AOC October, Cameroon

Capacity Assessment of Regional Networks

In 2016 GFRAS will conduct a capacity assessment of some of its 15 regional and sub-regional networks as well as a few of the 36 country fora in the areas of institutional capacity, information and communication technologies (ICTs), knowledge management, professionalisation, and advocacy.

The New Extensionist Learning Kit

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Nine Additional Global Good Practice Notes

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2015

The Development of Agricultural Sector in Front of the Challenges: Innovation Promotion and Networking Role in these Processes

EUFRAS International Conference, 16 January 2015, Berlin, Germany

Reaching the Millions! SDC Face-to-Face Workshop on Rural Advisory Services

Despite a wide range of approaches and actors, advisory services still fail to reach many potential clientele. What needs to be done to ensure that as many farmers as possible benefit from these services? And how can this be accomplished in a poverty oriented, sustainable way? These were the starting questions for a workshop organised by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). 2–7 March 2015, Hanoi, Vietnam

Towards Enabling Policies for the 'New Extensionist'

At the core of the first East Africa policy dialogue were the results of the scoping study on the status of the agricultural extension and advisory services policies in Africa and their alignment to the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) agenda. Commissioned by GFRAS and conducted by Professor Oladele Idowu, the study revealed that out of the 29 countries assessed, only five have fully legislated extension policies, while the majority have only provisional extension policies. Entebbe, Uganda, 16–18 June

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Global Good Practice Initiative

There are many voluminous ICT platforms and forums for knowledge exchange in agriculture and a lot of duplication has started to emerge. Bodies like GFRAS and AFAAS have the mandate to call for some integration and harmonisation so that farmers can get the best service possible. They need to become the point of reference for donors and investors targeting ICT and extension in extension. Carol Kyazze Kakooza, Chief Of Party – MUIS project, Uganda

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