

## 2019 Stocktaking Report for the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP)

Coordinator: TAP Secretariat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

### 1. OVERVIEW

[The Tropical Agriculture Platform \(TAP\)](#) is a multi-layer facilitation mechanism comprising 46 global, regional and national partners representing agricultural research, education and extension, international development and funding agencies. TAP was launched as a G20 initiative to improve efficiency and effectiveness of capacity development programmes and knowledge sharing to strengthen agricultural innovation systems in the tropics and sub-tropics<sup>1</sup>.

### 2. PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

The Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) has formed a coalition of more than 46 global, regional and national partners, coming from the G20 and other countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, Northern America and Latin America. The full list of TAP Partners is available at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/partners/global-partners/en/>

### 3. ACTIVITIES BEFORE 2018

**2012:** TAP was officially launched by FAO at the first G20 Meeting of Agriculture Chief Scientists (MACS) in September 2012 in Mexico. During the first meeting in Punta Del Este, Uruguay in October 2012, TAP partners developed an **Operational Framework** and a **work plan** for the inception phase, which comprised preparatory **regional needs assessments of capacities for agricultural innovation systems (AIS)**. Based on the findings of the regional assessments, a [TAP Synthesis Report](#) was prepared, with major constraints and recommendations that provided the basis for defining the TAP action plan.

**2013:** The first **TAP Action Plan** was developed and approved by the TAP Partners for the period 2014-2017 at the TAP Partners Assembly (PA) in China in September 2013. It had three core elements: i) Advocacy and policy dialogue; ii) The development and pilot testing of a Common Framework on Capacity Development (CD) for Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS); iii) TAPipedia, an information sharing platform on agricultural innovation.

**2014:** In 2014, **FAO** and **AGRINATURA** developed a proposal for a joint project on **Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS)** to support the implementation of the TAP Action Plan. The project, approved in December 2014 has an overall budget of €13,356,851, of which €12,000,000 financed by the EC.

---

<sup>1</sup>TAP Charter: [http://www.tapipedia.org/sites/default/files/tap\\_pajan2016\\_ammendedcharter\\_2016-03-01.pdf](http://www.tapipedia.org/sites/default/files/tap_pajan2016_ammendedcharter_2016-03-01.pdf)

**2015:** The four-year CDAIS project was launched in 2015. It was designed to support the implementation of the TAP Action Plan and CD processes in eight tropical countries focusing on specific innovation partnerships, thus complementing the strengthening of global, regional and national innovation mechanisms with concrete interventions in specific national value chains. The pilot countries, selected after consultations with FAO regional and country offices, government contacts as well as EU Delegations, are in Africa (Angola, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Rwanda); in Asia (Bangladesh, Lao PDR); and in Central America (Guatemala, Honduras).

Based on the review done in 2014, the Common Framework was developed in 2015 by the TAP Capacity Development Expert Group (CDEG)<sup>2</sup> under the guidance of the Global Task Force (GTF)<sup>3</sup>.

**2016:** Three key documents ([Conceptual Background](#), [Guidance Note on Operationalization](#) and [Synthesis Document](#)) were approved by TAP Partners at the **third TAP PA** in Rwanda in January 2016<sup>4</sup>. Following the endorsement of the Common Framework, the validation process of the Framework in eight countries was initiated. Scoping studies, training of national innovation facilitators and capacity needs assessments (CNA) were organized in the eight countries in 2015-2016. At the same time, TAP Partners were engaged to promote and integrate the Common Framework principles in their organizational research and development strategies and programmes and to mobilize resources for new CD projects using TAP Common Framework principles, such as USAID (training of field staff), APAARI (vision, programme and project development, awareness raising); FAO and Agrinatura (programme/project development, awareness raising), ACIAR and CABI (project development), CGIAR (methodologies), ICRA and NRI (project development), as well as share experiences through TAPipedia and Newsletters.

**2017:** TAP Partners facilitated by the TAP Secretariat developed a **draft TAP Action Plan 2018-2021**, discussed and amended by SC members and presented to Partners during the **fifth TAP PA** held in Lao PDR in September 2017. At country level, CNA validation workshops and marketplace events were held in the majority of the pilot countries and coaching plan development and learning cycles were initiated for selected innovation partnerships. In 2017, the FAO Office of Evaluation conducted an independent mid-term evaluation of the CDAIS Project. The [report](#) was published in December 2017.

---

<sup>2</sup> The TAP Capacity Development Expert Group was initially referred to as TAP CD Community of Practice.

<sup>3</sup> Partner members of the GTF are: APAARI, CABI, CATAS, CGIAR, EFARD, FAO, FARA, FORAGRO, GCHERA, GFAR, GFRAS, GIZ, USAID and the World Bank. It was also decided to include AARINENA and CACAARI as observers.

<sup>4</sup> The three documents were previously endorsed by the TAP Global Task Force on 15 December 2015.

#### 4. PROGRESS SINCE THE PREVIOUS STOCKTAKING EXERCISE (MARCH 2018)

<b>Priority 1: Countries better acknowledge the importance of Agricultural Innovation (AI) in their national strategic plans</b>	
Output 1.1: International Symposium and other major events are organized to raise awareness of AI	
Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FAO in partnership with other key actors in agricultural innovation, including CGIAR, IFAD, the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) and AGRINATURA organized the <a href="#">International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers</a>, held in Rome from 21 – 23 November 2018. TAP was represented during the different parallel sessions of the International Symposium by AFAAS, CABI, CATAS, CIRAD, CREA, FARA, FORAGRO, GFAR, GFRAS, IFAD, and the TAP Chair.</li> </ul>
Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In September 2018, a partnership was launched between the Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences (GCHERA) and the American University of Beirut (AUB) in a three-year project funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF). The project aims to promote EARTH University's model to strengthen experiential learning and community engagement in three select universities in Mexico and Haiti over a period of three years.</li> <li>- In November 2018, the TAP Secretariat was invited to the 14th General Conference AARINENA to present TAP/CDAIS experiences on assessing and strengthening capacities to innovate.</li> <li>- Sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (MOC), the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) organized in 2018 10 China-aid training courses on tropical agricultural technology in 2018, including 6 short-term training courses in China and 4 training courses respectively in Congo (Brazzaville), Rwanda, Micronesia, and Zanzibar.</li> <li>- Within the framework of the CTA/IFAD/PIPSO project, CTA facilitated the participation of eight leaders in agriculture, agribusiness and value chain development from Fiji, Samoa, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Tonga, to attend the international course "Organized farmers as partners in agribusiness – Optimizing the performance of producers' organizations". The course, organized by the Wageningen University (WUR) and the Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) from the Netherlands took place from 17 September to 6 October 2018.</li> </ul>
Output 1.2 Countries assess their AIS and weaknesses and capacity development (CD) needs are identified based on the TAP Common Framework (CF)	

**Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP):** <http://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/en>  
Email: [Tropagplatform@fao.org](mailto:Tropagplatform@fao.org)

Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Experts Consultation for the development of guidelines on AIS assessment was co-organized by CIRAD and FAO. The event was held from 13 to 15 June 2018 in Paris, France. A group of 30 experts including TAP Partners organizations provided valuable insights and recommendations to support the development of the guidelines.</li> </ul>
Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional CD for AIS tools were developed in 2018, as follows: tools on CD interventions, outcome mapping, partners' assessment and review, and gender analysis.</li> </ul>
Output 1.4 TAP Common Framework on CD for AIS supported by G20 and other international and regional mechanisms.	
Completed	<p><b>G20 events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TAP was represented by the TAP Secretariat with a presentation at the Meeting of the Agricultural Chief Scientists of G20 States (MACS-G20), held from 28 to 30 May 2018 in San Salvador de Jujuy, Argentina.</li> <li>- TAP activities and TAPipedia were presented during the MACS-G20 Agricultural Technology Sharing Working Group Workshop, held in Beijing, China from 26 to 28 September 2018.</li> </ul>
Output 1.5 Work of TAP and its partners is widely known and visible	
Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two newsletters were produced and shared with TAP/CDAIS Partners and networks, to inform them about the progress made on the implementation of CDAIS/TAP related activities.</li> <li>- TAP website continues to be hosted, maintained and updated by FAO (<a href="http://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/en/">http://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/en/</a>).</li> </ul>

## **Priority 2: Countries substantially increase investments in the identified strategic priority AI interventions**

### **Output 2.2 Awareness of priority interventions raised with major donor agencies**

Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A regional policy dialogue on Enabling Agriculture Innovation in Family Farming in Latin America was held in Panama City, Panama, on 2-3 October 2018, jointly organized by the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Chile, the FAO Sub-Regional office for Mesoamerica, Panama, and the FAO Research and Extension Unit, Italy. The event served to share experiences on applying the TAP Common Framework among the CDAIS countries and new countries.</li> </ul>
On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy dialogue processes have been implemented in the CDAIS countries. It included stakeholder consultations (including local</li> </ul>

**Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP):** <http://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/en>  
Email: [Tropagplatform@fao.org](mailto:Tropagplatform@fao.org)

	government) at <b>partnership level</b> , and <b>national level</b> events where priority issues were presented and discussed with policy makers. National policy events have been completed in Laos (June 2018), Honduras and Guatemala (August 2018), and Bangladesh (September 2018).
--	--

**Priority 3: Countries learn from existing CD for AIS interventions and further develop the Common Framework to improve the coherence, and effectiveness of their CD for AI interventions**

Output 3.1: TAP Common Framework is validated in 8 pilot countries.

Completed	<p><b>Trainings and Webinars organized by TAP Secretariat and TAP Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Webinar in Spanish on strengthening capacity to innovate in the tropics: the role of policy environment, organized by FAO-TAP in collaboration with the Red Latinoamericana de Servicios de Extensión Rural (RELASER). The event was held on 21 September 2018, and brought together the Spanish-speaking community to exchange on the importance of developing functional capacities and the role of the enabling environment to unlock the potential for agricultural innovation.</li> <li>- Webinar on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation was organized by APAARI in collaboration with the TAP Secretariat, targeting University Managers, leaders and postgraduate students in the Asia Pacific region. It took place on 30 November 2018.</li> <li>- A book containing a compilation of 24 <a href="#">stories of change</a> from the eight CDAIS pilot countries was published by Agrinatura and FAO in November 2018.</li> </ul>
-----------	--

Output 3.2 TAP Common Framework is applied in new countries

On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Italian Cooperation for Development approved in April 2018 the Project on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems in El Salvador, which was launched in October 2018 through an Inception Workshop with the participation of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Italian Cooperation, FAO and relevant AIS stakeholders. The project aims to develop the functional and technical capacities of 800 smallholder farmers, and to benefit four thousand families. At the end of 2018 an assessment of the AIS was initiated.</li> </ul>
----------	--

	In addition, FAO submitted in 2018 project proposals to support more countries using the common framework for strengthening their agricultural innovation systems to potential donors.
Output 3.3 National capacities for AI are strengthened including strengthening of national innovation mechanism for advocacy, multi-stakeholder dialogue and coordination.	
On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity needs assessments were carried out in 2018 for 2-3 selected key organization of the CDAIS countries. After completion of the assessments, coaching plans for the organization were developed and the agreed actions have been implemented.</li> <li>- Refinement and reflection workshops were organized in the CDAIS pilot countries to collectively monitor and evaluate the expected changes in the functional capacities and to learn from ongoing CD interventions. Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) teams have been set up in each of the countries with responsibility to track the progress of the project.</li> </ul>
Output 3.7 TAPipedia as the reference platform on CD for AIS expanded	
In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TAPipedia website, hosted by GFAR, is regularly updated with TAP/CDAIS related resources provided by Partners. In December 2018, TAPipedia (<a href="https://tapipedia.org">https://tapipedia.org</a>) counted more than 64 registered organizations and more than 1,700 resources.</li> <li>- Webinar in French on Sharing Knowledge on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation through TAPipedia was organized by FAO-TAP and GFAR, in collaboration with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). The event took place on 10 July 2018 and aimed to raise awareness among the francophone community on the role of TAPipedia in disseminating innovative and systemic approaches for capacity development.</li> </ul>

#### **Priority 4: Countries monitor the progress of their CD for AIS interventions/investments**

Output 4.1 A Monitoring and Evaluation system of CD for AIS is established in pilot and new countries.

On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The 7th CDAIS Global Team Meeting was held from 2 to 6 July 2018 in London, UK. During the meeting, CDAIS country teams shared their achievements, challenges and successes, and reflected on how to overcome bottlenecks in developing capacities using principles of the TAP Common Framework.</li> </ul>
----------	--

**Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP):** <http://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/en>  
Email: [Tropagplatform@fao.org](mailto:Tropagplatform@fao.org)



Output 4.2 Countries share their experience and progress through regular global meetings (e.g. TAP Partners Assembly etc.)	
Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TAP Steering Committee (SC) met three times in 2018, to provide strategic vision, oversees the development of the TAP Action Plan, budget and annual work programme and monitors progress made on the implementation of the TAP plan of action.</li> <li>- In September 2018, TAP Partners endorsed the new Action Plan 2018 – 2021, which aims at strengthening agricultural innovation capacities for the tropics and sub-tropics. It has a strong focus on improving TAP governance, expanding the political mandate of TAP at all levels, greater involvement and commitment of TAP Partners in all aspects of implementation, financial sustainability and country ownership of the agricultural innovation agenda.</li> <li>- TAP developed a Resource Mobilization Strategy aligned with the approved TAP Action Plan (2018-2021). It aims at mobilizing resources to fund core activities such as supporting the TAP governance mechanism and TAPipedia, to implement associated activities towards the achievements of the four priorities/outcomes of the second TAP Action Plan.</li> <li>- The European Commission expressed its interest to support FAO also in future in hosting the TAP Secretariat and for undertaking targeted AIS related activities, such as the assessments and strengthening of national agricultural innovation systems and the integration of the common framework in programmes of regional research and extension fora.</li> </ul>

## 5. WORK PLAN FOR 2019

### Priority 1: Countries better acknowledge the importance of Agricultural Innovation (AI) in their national strategic plans

- CDAIS International Forum on 13-14 May 2019 in Gembloux, Belgium to share and shape a path for action on how to strengthen functional capacities, and to develop recommendations on how to most effectively drive innovation processes in agriculture.
- Reports and key publications (including transversal analysis) on CDAIS developed and published by August 2019.
- Assessment of the AIS and capacity needs assessments in selected value chains will be conducted in El Salvador, as part of the CD for AIS project funded by the Italian Government.

### Priority 2: Countries substantially increase investments in the identified strategic priority AI interventions

**Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP):** <http://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/en>  
Email: [Tropagplatform@fao.org](mailto:Tropagplatform@fao.org)

- Training workshop on “Transformation of Agricultural Education through Knowledge Management and Capacity Development for More Effective Agricultural Innovation System” jointly organized by APAARI, GCHERA and FAO, targeting Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore, India in January 2019.

**Priority 3: Countries learn from existing CD for AIS interventions and further develop the Common Framework to improve the coherence, and effectiveness of their CD for AI interventions**

- CDAIS National Fora to share with different stakeholders from the AIS the lessons learned gathered from the CDAIS project at country level. These events will take place in 8 CDAIS pilot countries in April/May 2019.
- CDAIS country annual and final reports CDAIS developed and published by June 2019.
- Development and pilot of e-learning module on CD for AIS based on the TAP Common Framework.

**Priority 4: Countries monitor the progress of their CD for AIS interventions/investments**

- Final Evaluation of CDAIS conducted by FAO Office of Evaluation to be completed by August 2019.
- Regular Steering Committee meetings (first meeting to be held on 31 January 2019).
- 6<sup>th</sup> TAP Partners Assembly (virtual) to be organized in March 2019.
- TAP Action Plan 2018-2021 implementation: TAP partners will continue mobilizing funding to support new developing countries in applying lessons learned from piloting the Common Framework at country level, and to foster collaboration on capacity development among AIS actors, including private sector, through (sub-) regional innovation platforms.



**For further information:**

**Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP):**

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/en>

Email: [Tropagplatform@fao.org](mailto:Tropagplatform@fao.org)

**TAPipedia:** <http://tapipedia.org>

Email: [info@tapipedia.org](mailto:info@tapipedia.org)

**Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP):** <http://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform/en>

Email: [Tropagplatform@fao.org](mailto:Tropagplatform@fao.org)