

THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE PLATFORM AT A GLANCE



WHAT IS IT?

The Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) is a multi-layer facilitation mechanism comprising 49 global, regional and national partners representing agricultural research, education and extension, international development and funding agencies. TAP is 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.

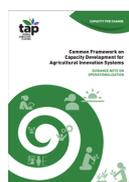
To achieve these goals, TAP has embraced the **Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS)** perspective, acting as a multilateral dynamic facilitation mechanism that enables better coherence and greater impact of Capacity Development interventions in AIS.

TAP was officially launched at the first G20 Meeting of Agriculture Chief Scientists (MACS) in September 2012 in Mexico and FAO was requested to lead its development. In 2012 three regional needs assessments of capacities for AIS were conducted and, based on the findings, a **TAP Synthesis Report** was prepared, with major constraints and recommendations that provided the basis for defining the TAP Action Plan.

TAP COMMON FRAMEWORK

The first **TAP Action Plan** (2014 - 2017) was developed and approved by the TAP Partners at the TAP Partners Assembly (PA) in China in September 2013 which included in 2015 the development of a Common Framework on Capacity Development for AIS by the TAP Capacity Development Expert Group (CDEG) under the guidance of the Global Task Force.

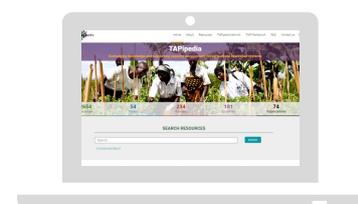
The **Common Framework** is featured in three volumes:



Conceptual Background, [Guidance Note on Operationalization](#) and the [Synthesis Document](#).

Concepts and principles of the TAP Common Framework have been tested in eight countries (Angola, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Rwanda, Laos) as part the **CDAIS project**, implemented by FAO and **Agrinatura**, financed by the European Union for the period 2015-mid 2019.

The first TAP Action Plan also included the development of **TAPipedia**, an information sharing system designed to enhance knowledge exchange in support of CD for AIS.



www.tapipedia.org

More than 2,500 resources in support of Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation!

PROJECTS

Since 2018, FAO El Salvador has implemented a **CDAIS** project, funded by the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development (AICS).

Since August 2019 the EU supports the new **TAP Action Plan (2018-2021)** through the project "Developing capacities in agricultural innovation systems: scaling up the TAP Framework" (**TAP/DeSIRA**), implemented by FAO, with a budget of EUR 5 million over 5 years.

Contacts

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HOW TAP WORKS?

The TAP Partners Assembly (PA), Steering Committee (SC) and Secretariat form the governance structure of the TAP.

The TAP-PA consists of the representatives of all TAP Partners. Its functions are to approve the plan of work, budget and annual reports and to provide guidance to the TAP SC. TAP PAs are held every year, either virtually or face to face.

The SC consists of up to eleven members, elected by consensus the Assembly. The TAP SC meets at least quarterly virtually or physically and is responsible to submit the draft TAP Action Plan and budget to the TAP PA, monitor the progress made on the implementation of the TAP Action Plan and advise the TAP Secretariat on implementation of the activities. The TAP Secretariat is hosted by FAO in the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AGDR), and serves the Platform by coordinating the implementation of TAP activities, organizing and convening meetings of the TAP SC, TAP PA and other TAP bodies, preparing documents and exploring funding opportunities to support its work. The roles and responsibilities of the TAP governing bodies are described in the **TAP Charter**.

A TAP Capacity Development Expert Group (CDEG) was initially convened in 2014 to develop the Common Framework and TAPedia and in 2019-20 will be engaged to revise the Common Framework based on the CDAIS application and to contribute to the development of new knowledge products on CD for AIS.

WHO CAN JOIN TAP?

Partners in TAP include national agricultural research, education and extension institutions, private sector, civil society and farmers' organizations from the G20 and developing countries, as well as key regional and international fora, networks and agencies. The contribution of resources to TAP is made on a voluntary basis.

Each TAP partner determines the nature and extent of its participation in the TAP activities, in line with the TAP Action Plan. As outlined in the Charter, organizations/institutions that wish to join as **TAP Partners have to submit a letter of interest** (explaining how they can contribute to the activities of TAP) to the TAP Chair.



TAP Publications

- **Common Framework Volumes**
- **CD for AIS Cycle - Overview Documents**

- Stage 1: Galvanizing Commitment
- Stage 2: Visioning
- Stage 3: Capacity Needs Assessment
- Stage 4: Capacity Development Strategy
- Stage 5: Implementation



- **Factsheets & Tools**

- Timeline
- Outcome Mapping
- Action Plan
- CD Modalities
- Problem Tree
- Partner Review
- Gender
- Simulation Game
- Capacity Scoring Tool
- Scoping Study
- Rich Picture
- Social Network
- Assessment of Innovation Capacities



- **Guides & Manuals**

- Capacity Needs Assessment
- Organizational Strengthening
- Innovation Niche Partnerships
- Organizing a Marketplace
- Organizing a Policy Dialogue
- Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
- Stories of Change
- Conversations of Change
- Assessment of Current Capacities and Needs For CD in AIS in Low-Income Tropical Countries



TAP PARTNERS



This platform received financial assistance by the European Union