Tropical Agricultural Platform: Facilitating capacity development for agricultural innovation in the Tropics

MACS Meeting, Potsdam, Germany – 15 Nov. 2017

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On behalf of TAP Partners

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Major TAP Milestones since the G20 launch in 2012

- In 2012, the Tropical Agriculture Platform was launched at 1st G20 MACS in Mexico to address the capacity gaps for agricultural innovation in low and lower-middle income countries, in the tropics;

- TAP functions as a multilateral facilitation mechanism to promote greater coherence and impact of Capacity Development (CD) for Agricultural Innovation System (AIS);

- TAP has 45 partners and its governance structure includes a Steering Committee, a Partners Assembly and a Secretariat (supported by FAO);

- The TAP Action Plan 2014-2017 was developed and approved based on regional needs assessments in LAC, Africa, South East Asia (CIAT, FARA, SEARCA, 2013); the 2018 - 2021 TAP Action Plan is under review.

- Implementation of the TAP Action Plan is supported by the EU-funded CDAIS project (2015-2018), jointly implemented by Agrinatura and FAO.
Major TAP milestones

2012
- TAP launched at G20 MACS in Mexico

2013
- Regional needs assessments
- 1st TAP Partners Assembly (PA) in China

2014
- TAP Global Task Force & CD Expert Group launched

2015
- EU funds mobilized (CDAIS by Agrinatura & FAO)
- CDAIS (EC) project launched to support implementation of TAP Action Plan

2016
- TAP Partner Meeting & Assembly in Rwanda
- CF & TAPipedia approved
- Country CD for AIS assessments (CNA)
- NIF Training, M&E Tools
- E-conference, symposium & other events to advocate for CD for AIS and TAPipedia (global & regional)

2017
- TAP & TAPipedia Newsletters
- TAP CF in French and Spanish
- Country CNA validation and Marketplaces events, coaching plans, learning cycles initiated
- 5th TAP PA & cross-country learning event in Laos
- 2018-21 Draft TAP Action Plan

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TAP Partners

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TAP Steering Committee

Steering Committee Members elected at 5th TAP Partners Assembly, September 2017, Laos PDR:

- Claude Bernhard – AGREENIUM, France
- Ravi Khetarpal – APAARI, Thailand
- Dannie Romney – CABI (Vice-Chair), United Kingdom
- Guodao Liu – CATAS, China
- Judith Francis – CTA/EFARD (Chair), Netherlands
- Samy Gaiji – FAO, Italy
- Amos Gyau – FARA, Ghana
- John Kennelly – GCHERA, Canada
- Thomas Price (interim) GFAR, Italy
- Jessica Bagdonis – USAID, United States

YPARD, GIZ, and IFAD (nomination of representative to be provided) are observers.
Achieving global coherence on CD for Agricultural Innovation Systems

Advocacy and policy dialogue (all levels)

Common Framework (systems CD)

TAPipedia knowledge hub (network & resources)

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TAP Common Framework (CF)

- Promotes a **shift of mind-set and attitudes**;
- Provides concepts, principles, approaches and tools to
  - better understand the **AIS architecture**, and **assess CD needs**
  - Plan, implement, monitor and evaluate **CD interventions**
- **Focus on functional capacities** for enabling innovation

Available in English, French and Spanish

TAP CF in a nutshell

Functional capacities (soft skills) individuals and organizations

Participatory Approaches to CD

Integration of CD at local and central level: marketplace, policy dialogue
Practical guides on TAP CF

5 stages:

8 tools:

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CDAIS Project: Pilots in 8 countries

CDAIS project applies TAP CF and operates in 8 countries (Angola, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Laos and Rwanda)

- innovation niche partnerships
- national platforms to support capacities to innovate
  *initiated with the inception workshops, marketplace/innovation platforms, policy dialogue processes*

Design, adaptation and use of global methodologies and tools

- Scoping studies
- Learning cycles
  - participatory capacity needs assessments (CNA): niche & organizational levels
  - national innovation facilitators who accompany changes
  - scheduled reflection and refinement events
- Integrated Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MEL)
  - coaching plans to measure changes at individual, organization and systems level
  - cross-country analysis
TAP CD Framework applied with strong stakeholder engagement in 8 countries

INCEPTION WORKSHOPS & CONSULTATIONS ➔ Toolbox

NEEDS AND BASELINE ASSESSMENTS

FACILITATOR TRAINING ➔ Training Manual

MARKETPLACES

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Main Conclusions (lessons learned):

- The CF on CD well aligned with demands and priorities of TAP partners and national priorities of participating countries.
- The project made good progress towards its three results.
- The project expected to validate the CF and at the same time deliver developmental outcomes.
- The project is fostering partnerships at global and national level that have helped progress towards the achievement of the project’s expected results and are the main vehicle for ensuring their continuation beyond the end of the project.
- National partners engagement and ownership are key factor for the success and sustainability of the project.
TAPipedia knowledge hub:

- allows Partners/other stakeholders to share their CD for AIS resources and initiatives (TAPipedia taxonomy; harvesting & uploading)
- explains and promotes the TAP CD Framework, including learning modules in an interactive format.
What is next for TAP?

- **Finalize and endorse** new TAP Action Plan (2018-2021):
  - Intensify policy advocacy and resource mobilisation for greater coherence on CDAIS;
  - Wider adoption and integration of the TAP “Common Framework”, with focus on organizational and institutional capacity development (CD);
  - Develop **vocational and higher education (HE) programmes on CD for AIS** for relevant institution and universities in the North and South.

- Expand TAP partner network and lobby for greater coherence and implementation of joint programmes

- Continue lobbying for **additional project funding** to support new countries in piloting **CD framework for AIS** at country level (funding already mobilised for pilots in 4 additional countries)

- Support the **1st FAO International Symposium on Innovation For Smallholders and Family Farmers**, FAO, HQ, 11-13 June 2018
Responding to member countries’ request for FAO’s strong support for smallholders and family farmers to innovate.

Expected key outputs

- **Rome Declaration and Call for action** to foster partnership for inclusive innovation for sustainable agriculture;
- Global **roadmap to promote innovation** and its enabling environment in support of FAO’s strategic plan and SDGs;
- **Commitments by countries** to developing their national agriculture innovation strategy through appropriate diagnosis;
- Promote partnerships (e.g. public-private) and resourcing to promote and scale-up inclusive innovations.
Conclusion

- TAP is an active platform and partners are being encouraged to increase their engagement, and align their programmes for greater impact of their CD initiatives;
- TAP is on track towards achieving more coherence for capacity development for agricultural innovation as agreed by its Partners, however more needs to be done!
- TAP encourages MACS to continue to support the TAP and to raise awareness and increase visibility to mobilise additional political support for ensuring the sustainability of CD for AIS;
- TAP partners support the 1st FAO International Symposium on Innovation For Smallholders and Family Farmers, FAO, HQ, 11-13 June 2018 and other policy dialogue processes towards conducive enabling environment for inclusive agricultural innovation. MACS invited to endorse the symposium.
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TAP:
http://tapipedia.org/

THANK YOU