TROPICAL AGRICULTURE PLATFORM
and
CAPACITY FOR CHANGE

Common Framework on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CD for AIS)

On behalf of TAP & CDAIS Partners
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Tropical Agriculture Platform facilitated by FAO
Capacity needs in the Tropics: the G20 establishes TAP

- Low and lower-middle income countries, which are mainly located in the tropics, often lack capacities to support agricultural innovation;
- To address this gap, the G20 launched the Tropical Agriculture Platform;
- With more than 40 partners, TAP is a multilateral facilitation mechanism to promote greater coherence and impact of CD for AIS;
- The TAP Action Plan is based on regional needs assessments (CIAT, FARA, SEARCA) carried out in 2013;
- Since 2015, the TAP Action Plan is supported by the EU-funded Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems project for global and country results.
**TAP major milestones**

2012

- Informal Stakeholder Consultation, Rome
- TAP launched at G20 MACS, Mexico
- TAP partners meeting, GCARD, Uruguay

2013

- Regional needs assessments
- TAP Inception Workshop & TAP Partners Assembly (PA), China

2014

- EU funds mobilized (CDAIS by Agrinatura & FAO)
- TAP Global Task Force & CD Expert Group launched
- Virtual TAP PA

2015

- CDAIS project launched to support implementing TAP Action Plan
- Common Framework (CF) for Capacity Development developed
- Design of TAPipedia in progress

2016

- TAP PA & CDAIS meeting & approval of TAP CF
- TAP CF at GCARD3, G20 MACS
- IARC adopted CF
- TAPipedia α-version
- E-conference & symposium
The **regional needs assessments** (CIAT, FARA, SEARCA) carried out in 2013, confirmed that interventions that aim to fill gaps in capacity in agricultural innovation in tropical areas are confronted with a broad set of problems:

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<th>Situation</th>
<th>Major constraints</th>
<th>Resulting problems</th>
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<td><strong>Planning phase</strong></td>
<td>Lack of planning tools</td>
<td>Inadequate analysis of capacity development (CD) needs</td>
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<td><strong>Implementation</strong></td>
<td>High number of donor-led initiatives</td>
<td>Small scale interventions mostly focus on individual training</td>
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<td><strong>Governance</strong></td>
<td>Lack of coordination mechanism</td>
<td>Insufficient alignment with other interventions &amp; policies</td>
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Global coherence of CD approaches for AIS

Advocacy and policy dialogue

Common Framework on CD for AIS

TAPipedia knowledge hub

Facilitating capacity development in agricultural innovation in the tropics - a G20 initiative - www.tropagplatform.org
TAPipedia knowledge hub:

- allows Partners and other stakeholders to share their CD for AIS resources and initiatives;
- presents, explains and promotes the TAP Framework, including learning modules.
The TAP Common Framework

1. Review Report: Review of existing resources on CD for AIS
2. Conceptual Background: Theory, concepts, principles, definitions
3. Synthesis: Summary of Conceptual Background
4. Guidance Note on Operationalization: Approach and tools
The Common Framework promotes a **system perspective** on agricultural innovation, since agriculture increasingly involves complex interactions among stakeholders at multiple levels.
Dimensions of Capacity Development

The Framework recognizes **3 CD DIMENSIONS**
*(individuals, organizations, enabling environment)*

The CD dimensions are interdependent and must be addressed together. The Framework pays special attention to the *enabling environment*.
Functional capacities

The Common Framework identifies 4 + 1 key capacities for AIS to perform effectively. These apply to all three dimensions of CD.

The 4 capacities on the left are the core of an overarching capacity to adapt and respond in order to realize the potential of innovation.
## Functional capacities

The key capacities in detail

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<td>System thinking</td>
<td>Team building</td>
<td>Tracking change processes</td>
<td>Understanding political &amp; decision making processes</td>
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<td>Multi-stakeholder analysis</td>
<td>Conflict resolution</td>
<td>Encouragement to reflect and learn jointly and to try new approaches</td>
<td>Building partnerships across organizations</td>
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<td>Gender &amp; diversity</td>
<td>Incentives for collaboration, networking, partnerships</td>
<td>Use participatory M&amp;E processes</td>
<td>Influencing decision-making processes</td>
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<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>Create enthusiasm &amp; shared responsibility</td>
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<td>Learning from past experiences</td>
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Dual pathway

The Common Framework proposes a dual pathway approach to CD for AIS. This conceptual approach includes two aggregated processes: at **system level** and at **innovation niche level**.

**System level**: the focus is on the functionalities and performance of the system as a whole.

**Innovation niche level**: CD takes place around specific innovation agendas, in which actors of all types allocate time and resources to achieve change.
The CD for AIS Cycle

- The Framework proposes a **CD CYCLE** in **5 STAGES** for the operationalization of CD interventions in AIS.
- The CD cycle stimulates learning and interactions between the 3 CD dimensions.
- Key elements:
  - Facilitation
  - Reflection, Learning and Documentation
  - Monitoring and Evaluation
Applying the Common Framework in countries

Through the EU-funded project on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS) implemented by Agrinatura and FAO in close collaboration with national organizations from 2015-2018.

**Africa:**
- Angola, Ethiopia,
- Burkina Faso, Rwanda

**Asia:**
- Bangladesh, Laos

**Central America:**
- Guatemala, Honduras
What is expected after 4 years in countries?

1. **CD needs** for strengthening AIS in 8 pilot countries are defined accurately.

2. **CD interventions** in AIS within 8 pilot countries and around priority themes and selected value chains are demand-driven and efficient.
Country level activities

- Develop a **shared vision** on CD for AIS (fed by scoping study, supported by policy roundtable)
- **Country-led** capacity needs assessments (Based on Common Framework)
- Develop CD for AIS **action plans**
- **Strengthen AIS** multi-stakeholder mechanisms / platforms
  (policy roundtables, marketplace)
TAP Framework applied in eight countries

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Inception workshops in Africa

- 30 niches identified
- 10 niches pre-selected
- 5 niches selected
- 17 niches identified

Tropical Agriculture Platform
Influencing Policies

National Policy Dialogues/Platform

- National Agriculture Sector Working Group & other bodies
- National Agricultural Innovation System Platform
- Innovation Partnerships / Niches

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Assessment of Capacity Development Needs

Pilot of Needs Assessment Methodology
Farmers’ Group in Xanakham district, Lao PDR
Thank you!