

RAS GLOBAL CHANGES AND REGIONAL RESPONSES

The Beginning

AGRICULTURE IS CHANGING AND TOO IS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

(AE) Agricultural Extension is under going major conceptual and functional changes

- ⦿ There is a wide spread use of the term **“Rural Advisory Service “** (RAS) more than the term **“Agricultural Extension”**
- ⦿ Some times the two terms are used as synonymous or Interchangeably, and some writings use both initials together **“ERAS”**

AAS ARE HERE DEFINED AS:

“systems that should **facilitate** the access of farmers, their organizations and other market actors to knowledge, information and technologies; **facilitate** their interaction with research, education, agribusiness and other relevant institutions; and **assist them** to develop their own technical, organizational and management skills and practices”.

- ◉ There are many organization at the global arena provide support to RAS at varying degrees
- ◉ Support could be direct (in terms of technical and financial assistance) or in direct as in advocacy for policies and actions of good extension practices
- ◉ This include UN organizations such as FAO, WFP, IFAD, and continental development banks such as ADB “African Development bank and IFAP “international Federation of Agricultural producers”, USAID..etc.



- The Neuchatel Initiative/Group was among the important international groups interested in Ag. Ext.
- It was formed at the late 20th. Century.
- The main interest of the Neuchatel Group focused on RAS
- The group acquired its name due to a the first meeting hosted by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Neuchatel city



- ◉ The Neuchatel Group aimed through publishing case studies and reports to assist and create a form of common understanding about the objectives, methods and ways of supporting Extension Policies
- ◉ The group was developed from being consisting mainly from donor agencies to become a specialized professional network consist of agencies and individual concerned with RAS
- ◉ The group terminated its activities in 2010 to give way to establishing FRAS

- ◎ **Formation of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Service (GFRAS)**

GFRAS was formed in 2010 under the support of GFAR “global forum for Agricultural Research”, to provide a platform for interaction among activists and stakeholders to provide advocacy, support and leadership in RAS



GFRAS is the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services.

Vision: to see rural advisory services effectively contributing to the sustainable reduction of hunger and poverty worldwide.

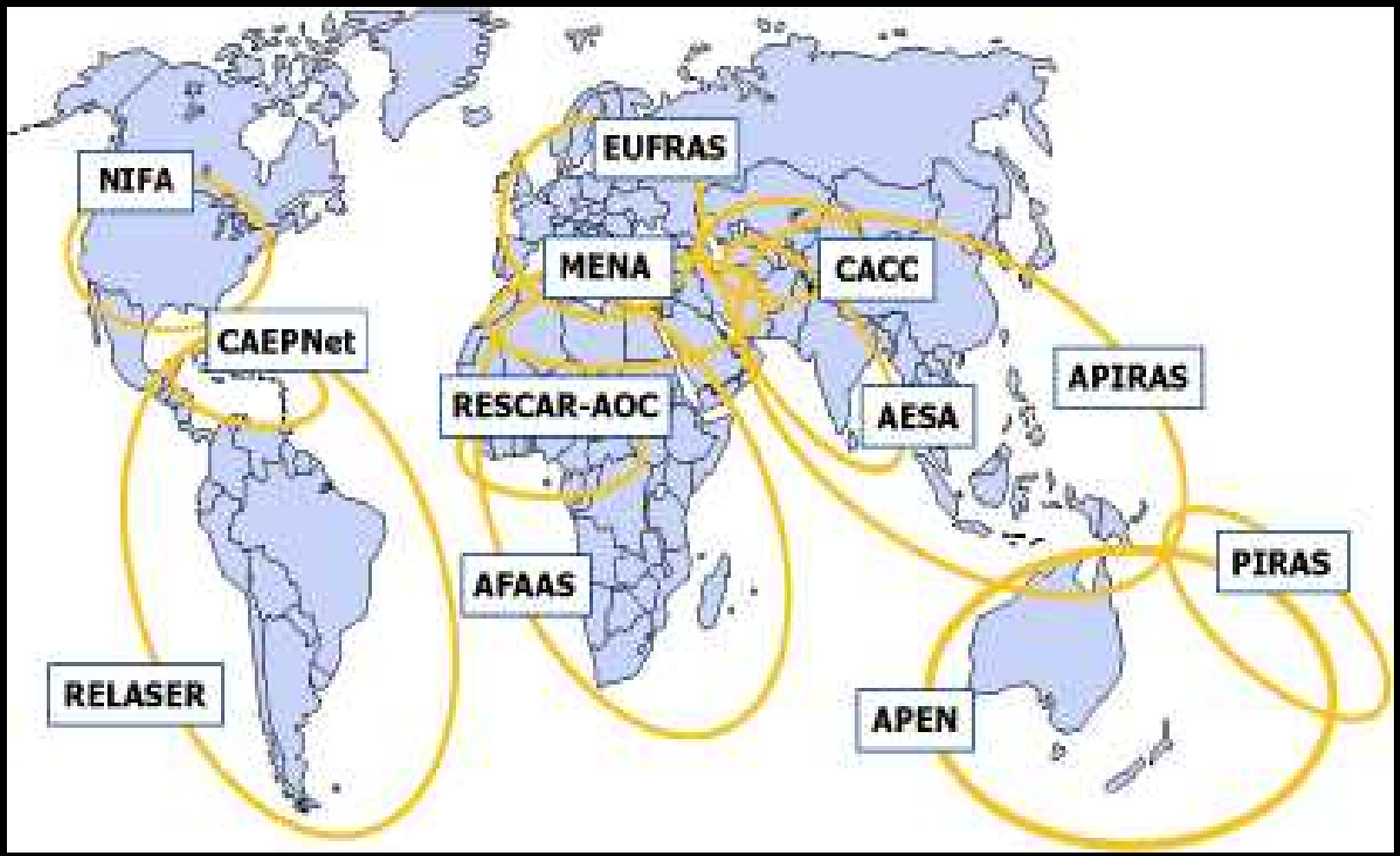
Mission: to provide advocacy and leadership on rural advisory services within the global development agenda.



- GFRAS succeeded during a short period in assisting in the establishing of several forums at both Continental Regional and Country levels
- GFRAS hold annual meetings since it was inaugurated:
 - Chile 2010
 - Nairobi 2011
 - Manila 2012
 - Berlin 2013
 - Buenos Aires 2014
 - Kazakhstan 2015



GFRAS GLOBAL NETWORKS





AFAAS - African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services

AFAAS has the mandate to implement the Agricultural Advisory Services aspects of the “Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme” (CAADP) - an African-owned and Africa-led initiative through which interventions to transform agriculture are coordinated. The CAADP has four pillars one of which (Pillar 4) addresses agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption.

- Leadership of the implementation of this Pillar is mandated to the **Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)**. In this context AFAAS operates under the umbrella of FARA but has its own autonomy and governance structure.



RESCAR-AOC Réseau des services de conseil agricole et rural d'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre

- En Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre (AOC), les services de conseil agricole et rural (SCR) peuvent apporter une contribution déterminante pour permettre au secteur rural de jouer pleinement son rôle de levier de développement économique et social. Mais les SCR sont actuellement en pleine recomposition et doivent relever de nombreux défis dont entre autres ceux de la qualité du service, du financement, du renouvellement des approches et outils, et du renforcement de la collaboration avec les secteurs connexes.



APIRAS - Asia Pacific Island Rural Advisory Services

- The APIRAS Network's specific objectives: To carry out advocacy on the provision of rural advisory services (RAS) in the Region To complement efforts of the regional research system as well as higher education institutions, farmer organizations, and other stakeholders in bringing evidence-based results to policy- and other decision makers



AESA - Agricultural Extension in South Asia

- The idea of a portal on Agricultural Extension in South Asia emerged during the consultations on extension and advisory services organized by the APIRAS (Asia Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network) at Los Banos, Philippines (14-15 September, 2011) and the GFRAS (Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services) at Nairobi, Kenya (13-18 November 2011).

PIRAS - Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network

- PIRAS includes all 22 Pacific Island and member countries of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community SPC





RELASER - Red Latinoamericana de Servicios de Extensión Rural

- The Latin American Network is composed by 12 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. It is still in its early stages of formation and aims to add more countries of this region to achieve a real integrated vision on RAS in this region.

CAEPNet - Caribbean Agricultural Extension Providers Network

- CAEPNet was formed in spring 2013 and is currently determining its structure, organization and field of actions.



Australasia-Pacific Extension Network APEN

The Australasia-Pacific Extension Network (APEN)

- is a professional organization for extension professionals - people involved in community and rural development, adult education, communication and other related fields.
- The **network** represent about 500 extension professionals across Australia, New Zealand and beyond.
- It has active groups in every state of Australia with new ones being added. Members are from government agencies, private practice and educational institutions.

EUFRAS - European Forum for Farm and Rural Advisory Services

Aims of EUFRAS:

- ◉ Advocacy to policy makers and other stakeholders (e.g. EU; global, private sector, farmers organizations)
- ◉ improving the advisory work for farmers and rural actors looking for a minimum standard of advisors competences
- ◉ improving the knowledge and information exchange between science, advice and practice, supporting the EIP initiating cooperation between advisors in the different countries + cross boarder
- ◉ training on the job

Central Asia and Caucasus Forum for Rural Advisory Services (CAC-FRAS)

- A regional platform of GFRAS (Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services), have decided to join efforts and undertake joint actions towards strengthening Rural Advisory Service Systems in the region.
- The goals are to learn from each other, develop common approaches, and coordinate efforts to strengthen agricultural innovation systems in the region.

**What is missing from the
above is
The MENA Region**



**It is time to push
forward the
MENA Regional RAS
forum**

Don't You Agree??