CDAIS
INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT

Table of contents

List of acronyms used in the report

AIS	Agriculture Innovation Systems
AGRINATURA – EEIG	Consortium of European Organizations working in the Tropics
APAARI	Asia-Pacific Association of Research Institutions
ATT	AGRINATURA – EEIG Task Team
CAAS	Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences
CACAARI	Central Asia and Caucasus Association of Agriculture Research Institutions
CATAS	Chinese Academy of Tropical Agriculture Sciences
CATIE	The Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center
CD	Capacity Development
CDAIS	Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems
CGIAR	Consultative Group of International Agriculture Research
CIRAD	The French agricultural research and international cooperation organization working for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions
CPM	Country Project Manager
EMBRAPA	The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation
IAARD	Indonesian Agency for Agriculture Research and Development
ICRA	A Dutch Foundation working on building skills and facilitating innovations for improved livelihoods
IICA	Inter-America Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture
FARA	Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa
INIFAP	National Research Institute on Agriculture, Forestry and Livestock of Mexico
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FORAGRO	Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Development
GCHERA	Global Confederation of Higher Education
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
GFRAS	Global Forum Rural Advisory Services
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
TAP	Tropical Agriculture Platform
SO	Specific Objective
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

1. Description

1.1.   Name of <u>Coordinator of the grant contract</u>: AGRINATURA-EEIG

1.2.   Name and title of the <u>Contact person</u>: Guy Poulter

1.3.   Name of <u>Beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies)</u> in the Action: AGRINATURA-EEIG and FAO

1.4.   <u>Title</u> of the Action: Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems

1.5.   <u>Contract number:</u> CDI – Food/2014/352-658

1.6.   <u>Start date</u> and <u>end date</u> of the reporting period: 01 January – 31 December 2015

1.7.   Target <u>country(ies)</u> or <u>region(s)</u>: Global; Angola, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Laos, Rwanda (Pilot countries)

1.8.   <u>Final beneficiaries</u> &/or <u>target groups</u>[1] (if different) (including numbers of women and men):

   o   smallholder farmers and agricultural food related enterprises and consumers in 8 selected pilot countries and in countries where TAP Partners are active;
   o   41International and National Agricultural Research and Innovation Organisations that comprise the Partners of the Tropical Agriculture Platform, National agricultural research and innovation organisations and stakeholders in 8 selected pilot countries.

o   Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7): See 1.7.

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[1]   "Target groups" are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level, and "final beneficiaries" are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

2.   Assessment of implementation of Action activities

2.1. Executive summary of the Action

Year 1 activities were mainly on establishment of the project team at the global and country levels. A Partnership Agreement between AGRINATURA-EEIG and FAO was formalized and signed, and practical coordination mechanisms established. A Specific Power of Attorney between AGRINATURA-EEIG members within CDAIS was created, agreed and signed by all members, serving as the consortium agreement among members. At the country level, letters of interest and project documents were signed by the national governments of each pilot country and the respective FAO country offices, confirming the engagement of each country to the project, although the negotiation process took more time than originally envisaged. A project governance, communication and management document was developed, agreed and used by all team members at the global and country level, providing the terms of reference for each project team member and committees.

The Project Coordination Unit was established in Montpellier, France working closely with the FAO CDAIS Technical Unit in Rome. This unit is composed of a Project Coordinator (ICRA) and Finance controller (CIRAD) with support in administration and communication (ICRA). Country Project Managers (CPM) were recruited by the FAO offices through joint decision with AGRINATURA-EEIG Lead Organization in Bangladesh, Honduras, Guatemala, Laos and Rwanda, with recruitment underway in the remaining 5 countries. An AGRINATURA-EEIG Task Team (ATT) was formed composed of focal persons assigned for each pilot country and the coordination support unit of the AGRINATURA-EEIG Business unit, ICRA and CIRAD.

Approaches to agricultural innovation systems were reviewed and gathered as basis for the development of the Common Framework on Capacity Development (CD) for Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) (including concepts, methods, tools for CD and associated M&E). The Framework was drafted and shared among global experts who in turn reviewed and provided input for the second draft of the Framework.

Scoping studies were conducted in all 8 pilot countries (Angola, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Laos, Rwanda and Burkina Faso; the latter replacing Niger due to security concerns and travel restrictions on European member organizations of AGRINATURA-EEIG). Results showed diversity in the countries in terms of understanding and use of the concept of agricultural innovation systems as well as supporting policy environment.

The initial stages of establishing the project partnerships, between the implementing partners as well as between these and the governments of the 8 pilot countries resulted in postponement of some activities (e.g. inception workshops in some countries, CD needs assessment) from year 1 to year 2.

Specific Objective (SO): A global partnership on Capacity Development in Agricultural Systems is established on a sustainable footing, with needs assessed and approaches validated in 8 pilot countries.

Status of achievement: Global partnership established; needs assessment ongoing, approaches yet to be validated.

SO indicator 1: National mechanisms to govern multi-stakeholder partnerships in place in 8 countries.

Status of achievement: ongoing, country teams being established.

SO indicator 2: Farmers and agricultural businesses share knowledge and information with public research and advisory services in a timely manner.

Status of achievement: ongoing, country teams being established.

SO indicator 3: National/local government policies in 8 countries provide an enabling environment for the implementation of the project and interaction of main stakeholders group.

Status of achievement: yet to be implemented.

SO indicator 4: Individual capacity development actions in the stakeholders organizations involved in the chosen value chains are organised and delivered on a coordinated manner.

Status of achievement: yet to be implemented.

SO indicator 5: 2-3 multi-stakeholder innovation partnerships that support income generation or job creation along value chains are developed in each of 8 countries benefitting 30,000 smallholder farmers and/or agro-enterprises.

Status of achievement: yet to be implemented.

2.2. Results and Activities

R1: "An effective global mechanism is established to promote, coordinate and evaluate capacity development (CD) approaches to strengthen Agricultural Innovation Systems"

Indicator 1.1. "TAP mechanisms coordinate and harmonize a global effort on CD for AIS."

Progress/Achievements: TAP is recognized and active as a global platform on capacity development for agricultural innovation systems, gathering over 41 international and national organizations from across the globe from Africa, Asia and Central America, notably by global networks and organizations (e.g. GFRAS, GFAR, GCHERA, CGIAR, CABI), regional networks and organizations (e.g. APAARI, FARA, CACAARI, FORAGRO, IICA, CATIE), as well as prominent national organizations (e.g. CAAS, CATAS, EMBRAPA, INIFAP, USDA, IAARD, etc.)

Indicator 1.2: "The diversity of approaches for the development of AIS is analysed and understood and a Common Framework (guidelines and tools) on CD for AIS (needs assessment, intervention design, M&E, impact assessment) is available."

Progress/Achievements: Diverse approaches were identified, analysed and understood, and used to develop the Common Framework on CD for AIS. All materials are available online.

A1.1. " Coordinate and harmonize global efforts on CD for AIS through TAP mechanisms."

Indicator / Targets: TAP mechanisms coordinate and harmonize a global effort on CD for AIS.

Progress/Achievements: TAP has a functioning Secretariat working together with a Steering Committee with members from seven organizations. A Global Task Force and an Expert Group on provide the Secretariat with advice and inputs on formulating the Common Framework on CD for AIS.

Changes made if any: None

Risks/Challenges: TAP activities and facilitation are currently mainly financed by the CDAIS project. Other organizations financially supporting TAP are FAO, GFAR, the German Government, and USAID. For TAP to be sustainable, additional support needs to be mobilized in the coming years.

1.1.1 "Facilitate and provide governance for TAP "

Indicator / Targets: TAP Secretariat and TAP Steering Committee facilitate and manage the Platform ensuring efficient delivery [Y1-Y4].

Topics/activities covered: The following activities were achieved in the period covered:

- TAP Steering Committee Meetings were held in March (virtual), July (physical), November (virtual) and December (virtual). The meetings discussed and approved the progress made in delivering the TAP work plan for 2015..
- TAP Secretariat
  - Organized virtual meetings of the Steering Committee and physical meetings of the TAP Global Task Force and TAP Expert Group (See details under 1.1.2).
  - Maintained communications with TAP Partners
  - Coordinated implementation of activities planned for 2015 as shown in Results 1 and 2.

Changes made if any: None

Risks/Challenges: None

1.1.2 *"Gather major CD for AIS stakeholders through TAP Partner Assemblies and TAP bodies (FAO)"*

Indicator / Targets:

- TAP outputs and TAP work plan discussed.
- Adoption of Common Framework on CD for AIS by CD for AIS stakeholders facilitated.
- Exchange of lessons learned facilitated [Y1 & Y3]

Topics/activities covered: The Common Framework on CD for AIS was drafted, shared and discussed with the TAP Expert Group in January and June 2015 in Rome Italy and in March 2015 in Montpellier, France. The first meeting agreed on the process and focus on how the framework is to be developed. The second meeting further refined the process further strengthened with literature reviews of existing tools and approaches relevant for the Framework. During the third meeting in Montpellier, the Expert Group received the first outline of the Framework with more comprehensive database of tools and approaches. The experts agreed on the focus and structure of the Framework.
The Common Framework was presented to the Global Taskforce in July 2015 in Rome, Italy. The consultation reviewed the proposed functional capacities and the operational process in using the Common Framework.

Changes made if any: The TAP General Assembly and Partners Meeting, originally foreseen on the last quarter of 2015 was postponed to 19-21 January 2016, to allow national project coordinators of the 8 CDAIS countries to share their initial experiences and work plans with TAP Partners (as country level activities started only in the late second and third quarter with scoping studies and inception workshops).

Risks/Challenges: The Common Framework was drafted at the global level and requires flexibility and adaptation at national and local levels to be fully understood and to create ownership.

1.1.3 *"Organize and participate in global policy roundtables"*

Indicator / Targets: Policy-makers of target countries exchange visions and experiences, build consensus among themselves and with TAP Partners [linked to Partner Assemblies in Y2, Y3]

Topics/activities covered

Changes made if any: Policy dialogues with pilot countries, linked to the TAP Partner Assembly were postponed to year 2 (see 1.1.2).

Risks/Challenges: Identification of the most appropriate pathway to influence policy making at the global level will be critical to ensure that the project's results are appropriately owned and integrated into the relevant global initiatives or platforms, and to enable sustainability of project outputs.

A1.2 *"Document the diversity of approaches and develop a Common Framework on CD for AIS"*

Indicator / Targets: A Common Framework (guidelines and tools) for assessment of CD needs as well as for design, M&E and impact assessment of CD interventions as well as related learning modules are available

Topics/activities covered: A review of resources on CD for AIS resulted in numerous resources made available online and presented to the Global Expert Group. These were used as reference for developing the Common Framework's conceptual background document and guidance note on its operationalization. These documents provided guidelines in gaining a shared understanding of the concepts of agricultural

innovation systems and why specific capacities are required to achieve changes within individuals, organizations and institutions and how to develop them.

Tools that could be used in applying the approach proposed by the Framework were identified and can be found in the guidance note. They will also be made available online through the TAPipedia online knowledge hub.

Changes made if any: None

Risks/Challenges: Guidelines drafted at the global level are useful to initiate discussions at the national level. Listing tools can also be useful, but since the concepts and functional capacities relate to different contexts (actual capacities and needs of stakeholders in each country), approaches and tools need to be adapted to fit each context.

1.2.1 "Review the diversity of CD for AIS approaches and tools by TAP Expert Group"

Indicator / Targets: Existing CD for AIS approaches and tools (including a theory of change, appropriate ways of M&E, impact assessment are reviewed and documented in a report to the Global Task Force [Y1].

Topics/activities covered: A review of resources on CD for AIS was carried out by a team of experts, which complied and analysed existing material dealing with the different aspects of CD for AIS. Numerous resources have been systematized and are being made available online. The resources were presented to the TAP Expert Group, which gave additional inputs, and were then used as reference for developing the Common Framework.

Changes made if any: None

Risks/Challenges:. The information gathered remains diverse and limited based on the knowledge and interests to share by the TAP Expert Group.

1.2.2 "Develop a Common Framework on CD for AIS by TAP CD Expert Group"

Indicator/Target: Based on review (1.2.1), a Common Framework on CD for AIS (guidelines, benchmarking methods, tools) is available [Y1].

Topics/activities covered: The draft Common Framework proposes that for an agricultural innovation system to perform effectively, it requires 4 key functional capacities; namely, capacities i) to navigate complexity, ii) to collaborate, iii) to reflect and learn and iv) to engage in strategic and political processes. These four capacities are the core of an overarching capacity to adapt and respond in order to realize the potential of innovations.

A proposed M&E architecture is integrated in the Common Framework on CD for AIS composed of two elements that are interconnected through learning cycles: i.e. i) a framework for M&E of CD for AIS at country level; and   ii) a framework for M&E on the performance of the "Common Framework on CD for AIS". This M&E framework was presented and endorsed at the Global Taskforce meeting in Rome, Italy. It will guide the development of the Theories of Changes and M&E framework of the CDAIS project.

Changes made if any: None

Risks/Challenges: Accessibility and adaptability of the CD Framework will influence its use by the targeted users and beneficiaries. Measuring of the achievement of the project in developing the functional capacities within each individual, organization and institution in each of the pilot countries will be a challenge, and depend on the proper identification and tracking of qualitative or semi-quantitative indicators to measure the required targeted changes.

1.2.4 "Endorse the Draft Common Framework on CD for AIS by TAP Global Task Force."

Indicator/Target*:* The members of the TAP Global Task Force endorse the Common Framework on CD for AIS [Y1]

Topics/activities covered: The Global Task Force endorsed the Common Framework at its virtual meeting in December

Changes made if any: The endorsement of the Common Framework by the full TAP Partners Assembly was postponed to year 2 (see above A1.1.2).

Risks/Challenges: A risk is that the Common Framework, while being endorsed, is not adopted by TAP Partners; demonstration of its use in the 8 pilot countries will be key to convincing partners to adopt.

1.2.5 "Advocate for and review/validate the evolution of Common Framework on CD for AIS by TAP Global Task Force."

Indicator/Target: TAP Global Task Force promotes the Common Framework on CD for AIS, monitors its evolution and the validation process (feedback from country-level to global level) and suggests adaptations [Y1].

Topics/activities covered: The TAP Global Task Force met in Rome in July 2015 to assess the progress made in developing the Framework and suggest additions/modifications and next steps. Consultations with TAP partners were organized at strategic events, including:
- The APAARI High-Level Policy Dialogue in Bangkok, Thailand in December 2015; the EFARD General Assembly meeting in Brussels, Belgium in November; and the FORAGRO General Assembly in Brasilia, Brazil in November 2015.
- The 42nd Committee on Food Security in Rome, Italy in November 2015, and the G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists in Izmir in July 2015.

The G20 commitment to TAP's objectives were reconfirmed by the G20 Development Group and through the G20 Antalya Development Roadmap.

Changes made if any: Further promotion of the Common Framework will be carried out in year 2 and the subsequent implementation period of the project, due to the postponement of the TAP General Assembly.

Risks/Challenges: N/A

1.2.6 "Develop web-based, open-access information management and knowledge sharing platform (TAPipedia)."

Indicator/Target: TAPipedia with inventories of existing CD methodologies, Common Framework on CD for AIS (guidelines, toolbox, etc.), inventories of case studies and CD initiatives, searchable profiles of supply and demand developed [Y1, Y2]

Topics/activities covered: The alpha version of the online platform was available by end of the year. This contains the CD for AIS resources gathered from Activity 1.2.1. This platform will be presented at the TAP General Assembly scheduled in January 2016.

Changes made if any: A project website was also developed to provide greater visibility to the project (www.cdais.net). A project management system was installed to facilitate the communications, tracking of activities at global and national level, documentation of processes and lessons learnt and sharing of general knowledge and references relevant for the project (https://capacity.community; access and use of the this system is currently limited to CDAIS teams involved in project implementation).

Risks/Challenges: Maintenance of a complex and ambitious online platform such as TAPipedia will depend on capable individuals to manage the system as well active involvement of users and contributors based on their appreciation of its added value.

1.2.7 "Maintain and manage TAP web content."

Indicator/Target: The existing TAP website and from Year 2 onwards TAPipedia is maintained, available material is updated, new material is added and TAP Partners are technically supported to upload content [Y1-Y4].

Topics/activities covered: A preliminary version of TAPipedia was developed, additional material will be added in years 2-4.

Changes made if any: none

Risks/Challenges: Sourcing the right content and regular updates requires dedicated resources as well as active involvement of users.

R2: "CD needs and existing provision for strengthening AIS in 8 pilot countries are defined accurately through inclusive country-led multi-stakeholder processes."

Indicator 2.1. Partners in 8 countries share a vision of CD in AIS.

Progress/Achievements: The Process of developing a vision of CD in AIS within each country was initiated through the scoping studies and inception workshops held in 3 countries so far (reports of studies and workshops are available, a cross-country synthesis will be documented in Y2)

Indicator 2.2. Country-led assessments, AIS-CD actions plans available in 8 pilot countries.

Progress/Achievements: CD assessments and action planning was postponed to Year 2, due to delays in formalizing collaboration agreements with country governments and establishing the country teams.

Indicator 2.3. Mechanism/platform for advocacy, dialogue and action on AIS CD established / strengthened in 8 countries.

Progress/Achievements: Activities were initiated through the mapping of stakeholders. Knowledge of potential mechanisms/platforms that could be used by the project was identified in the scoping studies and inception workshops.

A2.1   *"Develop a shared vision of CD for AIS among partners in 8 countries"*

Indicator/Target: Partners in 8 countries share a vision of CD in AIS

Topics/activities covered: A visioning exercises was included in the inception workshops; further activities will be developed as the needs assessments are conducted.

Changes made if any: None

Risks/Challenges: Developing a vision for CD in AIS with national ownership and relevance requires intensive consultations and iterations, as well as focus and engagement of the most relevant partners. The results of such process will depend on a national dialogue with the policy makers for real integration into national systems.

2.1.1 "Map and characterize AIS stakeholders and existing coordination mechanisms with initial scoping."

Indicator/Target: Eight country reports identifying main stakeholders involved in AIS and existing coordination mechanisms" [Y1]

Topics/activities covered: Reports of the scoping studies for all 8 pilot countries are available. They contain stakeholder maps and descriptions which characterize the AIS stakeholders and existing coordination mechanism/s (if any) in each country. These studies and maps were further presented and discussed at the

inception workshops for the countries that held the inception workshops in Y1 (and will be presented at the remaining inception workshops to be held in Y2)

Changes made if any: None

Risks/Challenges: The scoping studies were conducted with the assistance of national consultants in each country. The tasks required more time and resources than planned, a knowledge of national institutions with relevance to agricultural innovation systems, and - at the same time - meticulous information gathering and analysis of actual practices and situation in the country. Balancing and rationalizing these knowledge and information into a cohesive and logical analysis was a challenge.

2.1.2 "Consult governments and other stakeholders, including CD suppliers, (1-2 day inception workshop) to get buy-in and identify priority value chains/themes/ innovation partnerships for CD."

Indicator/Target: Country level work plan for assessment and CD discussed and validated by main stakeholders in each target country [Y1]

Topics/activities covered: Inception workshops were conducted in Bangladesh, Honduras, Guatemala and Rwanda. These workshops were jointly designed by AGRINATURA-EEIG, FAO and lead national project partners. They built on the results and recommendations of the scoping studies, especially regarding who to invite and potential project focus in each country. In each of the 4 countries, a preliminary list of potential innovation partnerships was created based on the scoping study and workshop participants. At the global level, guidelines on the selection criteria and process were developed for adaptation in each of the pilot countries. Shortlisted innovation partnerships will be further profiled to have solid information that will guide the final decision by the national steering committees.

Changes made if any: Inception workshops in Angola, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Laos will be held in the first quarter of 2016. The participants of the inception workshops held saw the need for working groups that could support the CDAIS country management team especially the country manager and the AFP as well as advise the national steering committee in the final selection of the innovation partnerships. Therefore, these agricultural innovation systems (AIS) working groups will be established in each of the pilot countries.

Risks/Challenges: Delays were due to challenges in signing of project documents between some governments and FAO country offices, as well as consequently establishing the country teams and appointing country managers.

The concept of agricultural innovation systems is interpreted and used in various ways by organizations in different countries. This results in varying degrees of understanding of the project not to mention cultural perspectives influencing interpretation of the AIS concepts. This will affect the project activities output and results.

A2.2 *"Develop AIS-CD action plans in 8 pilot countries, based on country-led assessments.***

Indicator/Target: Country-led assessments are available in 8 countries

Topics/activities covered: Yet to be implemented

Changes made if any: Activities postponed to Y2.

Risks/Challenges: Challenges include integration of plans with those of other national programmes, projects, if an overall national vision of CD-AIS is to be achieved.

2.2.1 "Assess overall CD needs for AIS and of specific needs of 2-3 pilot/focus value chains in 8 pilot countries."

Indicator/Target: TAP framework for CD for AIS needs assessment piloted, adapted and lessons learned documented in 8 countries [Y1].

Topics/activities covered: Postponed to Year 2.

Changes made if any: Due to delays in signing the partnership agreement between AGRINATURA-EEIG and FAO, project documents and establishment of country teams, this activity will be conducted in year 2 for all 8 pilot countries.

Risks/Challenges: The complexity of agricultural systems in each country requires an inclusive and participatory process of conducting the needs assessment, and hence time and resources for the process to be comprehensive and relevant to the needs of the target beneficiaries. It will be difficult for one person (consultant) to undertake this activity, and hence plans were made to utilize the core group of trainers (yet to be identified) to do this.

2.2.2   Develop CD action plans in collaboration with national institutions.

Indicator/Target: National Organizations to take the lead in CD of AIS are identified in each of 8 countries; CD plans for priority value chains/innovation partnerships developed with local stakeholders from selected value chains in each of 8 countries [Y2]

Topics/activities covered: Suitable national organizations were provisionally identified in the scoping studies (A2.1.1), and further discussions made in inception workshops held in 2015.

Changes made if any: In most countries where inception workshops have been held so far, multi-stakeholder working groups have been identified to take the lead in CD for AIS, rather than one organization.

Risks/Challenges: Identification of national organizations require logical selection process and well defined selection criteria. Once identified these organizations require adequate understanding of their roles and responsibilities as well as good understanding of the AIS concepts.

2.2.3 Validate the needs assessment and CD action plans for priority value chains/innovation partnerships

Indicator/Target: CD plans for priority value chain /innovation partnerships validated at national level in each of 8 countries [Y2]

Topics/activities covered: yet to be implemented

Changes made if any: none

Risks/Challenges: none identified to date

A2.3 *"Establish/strengthen mechanisms/ platforms for advocacy, dialogue and action on AIS CD in 8 countries."*

Indicator/Target: Mechanism/ platform for advocacy, dialogue and action on AIS CD established/ strengthened in 8 countries.

Topics/activities covered: Initial knowledge on mechanisms/platforms with potential linkages to the project were gained from the scoping studies and inception workshops.

Changes made if any: None

Risks/Challenges: The establishment or support to any mechanisms or platforms will depend on the quality of scoping studies and needs assessment. Therefore, the needs assessment has to be properly planned and implemented by knowledgeable team of facilitators with adequate support from the AFPs

2.3.1 "Appoint an embedded national programme coordinator during inception phase (government decision in collaboration with FAO and AGRINATURA-EEIG."

Indicator/Target: National Project Coordinators are appointed in each target country to facilitate and manage the project [Y1]

Topics/activities covered: Country Project Managers were hired in Bangladesh, Honduras, Guatemala, Laos and Rwanda. Negotiations are being undertaken to hire CPMs in the remaining countries.

Changes made if any: A working distinction was made between the "national coordinator" – generally a political appointee by the government from the designated national lead organization, and the "country project manager" as envisaged by the project and who would manage the project on a daily basis. The terms of reference of the national project coordinator and project manager are available in the project's documentation on governance, communication and management.

The country project managers for Angola, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia will be hired in 2016.

Risks/Challenges: The country project manager is formally hired by FAO, and hence administratively reports to the FAO Representative, while also expected to work together with the AGRINATURA-EEIG focal person assigned for the country. Such arrangements are generally new to FAO offices, and communication and consultations for joint decision making and actions will need to be assured by FAO country offices through its Country Representatives, the assigned CDAIS Focal persons within the FAO Country office, and supported by the FAO Rome CDAIS Technical Unit.

The hiring of the country project managers depends on the integration of the project within the FAO country offices and buy-in of the most relevant and appropriate government agencies. In two FAO country offices, there are limited human resources to support the project.

2.3.2 "Support National Project Coordinators in Year 1 (FAO)."

Indicator/Target: Contract, etc. provided for National Project Coordinators for activities in Year 1

Topics/activities covered: The contracts for the country project managers in Bangladesh, Honduras, Guatemala, Laos and Rwanda were issued by the corresponding FAO Country Offices. This include the terms of references for the position emphasizing on their roles and responsibilities as well as working relationship with the AGRINATURA-EEIG and other national partners.

Changes made if any:

Risks/Challenges: The country project managers are hosted at FAO country offices and hired part-time or full-time by the project. There is risk of focus and appropriate time allocation for the project in the future.

2.3.3 "Provide Technical Support Services (TSS) in Year 1 (FAO)."

Indicator/Target: Technical backstopping provided to support delivery of activities in Year 1

Topics/activities covered: The CDAIS Technical Support Team at FAO headquarters, which also serves as the TAP Secretariat, provided inputs into the scoping study guidelines and generic methodology and drafting the concept note for the inception workshops. It further provided support in the establishment of country teams to make sure that the appropriate profiles and strategic mandates of individuals are involved in the project. Moreover, the inception workshops were technically backstopped by the CDAIS Technical Support Team.

A designated CDAIS focal person within the FAO country offices (in most cases, this is assigned to the FAO Country Assistant Representative for Programmes) facilitated the inception phase of the project.

Changes made if any: None

Risks/Challenges: The project relies on FAO to have an efficient and effective project management system that decisions made at FAO Headquarters are acted upon by the country offices while actual country situations are well communicated to Rome to adapt agreed processes and methodologies.

2.3.4 "Backstop/mentor National Project Coordinators (Agrinatura)."

Indicator/Target: National project coordinator is fully knowledgeable of CD approaches and CDAIS project plans

Topics/activities covered: In each of the pilot countries, an AGRINATURA-EEIG member organization was appointed as lead, who in turn assigns a staff member to coordinate the project in that country (the AGRINATURA-EEIG Focal Person or AFP). The AFP provided technical support to their assigned country team. The AFP worked with the appointed country managers to develop the project annual workplan. Concept notes and guidelines for each activity conducted were provided by the AGRINATURA -EEIG Task Team (ATT), including for the scoping studies and inception workshops, as products of online and face-to-face discussions among the ATT. The scoping studies terms of reference and methodologies are available in the project management system (www.capacity.community).

Changes made if any: The AGRINATURA-EEIG lead organization in Ethiopia was changed to ICRA, as Austria's University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), could not continue this role due to institutional challenges in formally becoming a member of AGRINATURA-EEIG.

The Common Framework provided an overview of the scheduled activities. Details of the process were further developed by the CDAIS team at the global level such as the Methodology and Guidelines for the scoping studies and the concept notes for the inception workshops. Such guidelines facilitated the initiation of the activities in the countries as well as future cross-country analysis.

Risks/Challenges: During the course of the project implementation, it was observed that AIS concepts and its required capacities are limited in some national project organizations as well as CDAIS country management teams. It was therefore proposed to train (in Y2) the country managers in AIS concepts and the methods of facilitation of a multi-stakeholder partners which the project will be using.

2.3.7 "Establish marketplaces for CD for AIS (innovation fairs, learning events) at the regional level, engaging regional partners and creating opportunities for participation of pilot countries in regional learning."

Indicator/Target: National innovation mechanisms and innovation fairs supported by Regional Fora (APAARI, FARA, FORAGRO), which spread the approach beyond the target countries [Y1-Y3]

Topics/activities covered: Advocacy for the CD for AIS Common Framework was organized during the APAARI and FORAGRO policy dialogues.

Changes made if any: none

Risks/Challenges: The actual implementation of this activity depends on the strategic opportunities presented by the regional fora for the project. Therefore flexibility and agility of the team is required.

2.3.8 "Develop and/or strengthen national AIS multi-stakeholder platforms including lead and focal organizations in 8 pilot countries."

Indicator/Target: Managers of different organizations and other stakeholders comprising the national platform are supported to meet regularly, develop a common vision, joint work plan and governance mechanism [Y1-Y4]

Topics/activities covered: The scoping studies conducted identified an array of distinct organizations, cross department/ministry or multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms existing in the different countries. At the inception workshops conducted so far, multi-stakeholder working groups were established (at the suggestion of stakeholders present) to support the immediate aims of the project.

Changes made if any: none

Risks/Challenges: In some countries, suitable existing platforms were identified in the Scoping Studies, but will require substantial support and adaptation to ensure they achieve their objectives with regard to the project and its sustainability. Multi-stakeholder working groups established at the inception workshops will need to be integrated into formally recognised national mechanisms for the project results to be sustainable.

R3: "CD intervention in AIS Within 8 pilot countries are demand-driven and efficient, integrating the development of individual competencies, organizational capacities and enabling policies around priority themes and value chain."

Indicator 3.1. 20 persons in each of 8 countries with enhanced skills for facilitating local capacity development in AIS

Progress/Achievements: the "core group" to be developed with enhanced skills will be selected in Y2, by key and interested organizations identified in the inception workshops.

Indicator 3.2. 2-3 local/national value chain/innovation partnerships in each of 8 countries demonstrate improved capacity for joint innovation

Progress/Achievements: a preliminary list of potential value chain/innovation partnerships was identified by stakeholders, discussed and screened at the inception workshops. A short list of partnerships will be assessed for CD needs in Y2, with final selection for capacity development made after that.

Indicator 3.3. 4-5 key stakeholder organisations in each of 8 countries exhibit improved organizational culture, practices and procedures for joint innovation

Progress/Achievements: to be undertaken in Y3

Indicator 3.4 Lessons learned from the selected innovation platforms in the 8 pilot countries are reviewed, analysed, documented, synthesised and exchanged at global level to further promote tools, skills, approaches, procedures, etc. to strengthen AIS

Progress/Achievements: to be undertaken in Y4

2.3. Changes in the logframe (if any)

There are no major changes in the logframe except in the schedule of implementation of activities 2.2 and 2.3 which are moved to Year 2.
The project has Country Project Managers in charge of the daily management of the project instead of the National Project Coordinator. The terms of reference of these two positions are described in the project's governance, communication and management document.

2.4. 2016 Action plan

Act No.	Description	Lead org	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Result 1. An effective global mechanism is established to promote, coordinate and evaluate capacity development (CD) approaches to strengthen Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS)														
A1.1	**Coordinate and harmonize global efforts on CD for AIS trhough TAP mechanisms**													
1.1.1	Facilitate and provide governance for TAP - TAP Secretariat and Steering committee	FAO	x	x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1.1.2	Gather major CD for AIS stakeholders through TAP partner's assembly	FAO	x											
1.1.3	Organize and participate in global policy roundtables	FAO	x											
A.1.2	**Document the diversity of CD for AIS approaches and develop a Common Framework on CD for AIS**													
1.2.3	Develop learning modules for tools by TAP CD Expert Group	FAO				x	X	x						
1.2.5	Advocate for and review/validate the evolution of Common Framework on CD for AIS by TAP Global Taskforce	FAO	x	x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1.2.6	Develop web-based, open-access information management and knowledge sharing platform (TAPipedia)	FAO	x	x	x	x	X							
1.2.7	Maintain and manage TAP web content	FAO	x	x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Result 2. CD needs and existing provision for strengthening AIS in 8 pilot countries are defined accurately through inclusive country-led multi-stakeholder process														
2.1	**Develop a shared vision of CD for AIS among partners**													
2.1.1.	Scoping Studies	AgN-EEIG	x	x										
2.1.2.	Inception workshop	FAO		x	x	x	x							
2.1.3.	National Policy Roundtable to develop and agree on national common vision on CD for AIS	FAO											x	x
2,2	**Develop action plans on CD for AIS**													
2.2.1.	Conduct needs assessment (NA)	AgN-					x	x	x	x	x	x		

Act No.	Description	Lead org	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		EEIG												
2.2.2.	Develop action plans on CD for AIS with national partners on priority VC/innovation partnership	AgN-EEIG								x	x	x	x	x
2.2.3.	Validate needs ass. and action plan (workshop)	AgN-EEIG								x	x	x	x	x
2,3	**Establish/strengthen national mechanisms**													
2.3.4.	Backstop/mentor national team (NPC, CPM, NA team)	AgN-EEIG	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2.3.5	Support the integration of CD for AIS aspects in existing & new national policies on agriculture in 8 pilot countries through roundtables (linked to policy dialogue for national vision [A2.2] & global policy dialogue [A1.3])	FAO												
2.3.6.	Establish CD for AIS marketplaces (innovation fairs, learning events) in 8 pilot countries. (FAO)	FAO								x	x	x	x	x	
2.3.7.	Establish marketplaces for CD for AIS (innovation fairs, learning events) at the regional level, engaging regional partners and creating opportunities for participation of pilot countries in regional learning.	FAO											x	x
2.3.8	Develop and/or strengthen national AIS multi-stakeholder platforms including lead and focal organisations in 8 pilot countries.	AgN-EEIG											x	x
Result 3. CD interventions in AIS within 8 pilot countries are demand-driven and efficient, integrating the developemnt of individual competencies, organizational capacities and enabling policies around priority themes and value chains															
3,1	**Plan and design the CD interventions**													
3.1.1.	Design and plan programme by designated AIS-CD team/ organisation	AgN-EEIG										x	x	x
3.1.2.	Hold planning and review workshops for/by national AIS-CD teams implementing activity 3.2	AgN-EEIG									x	x	x	x

3.   Beneficiaries/affiliated entities and other Cooperation

3.1. How do you assess the relationship between the Beneficiaries/affiliated entities of this grant contract (i.e. those having signed the mandate for the Coordinator or the affiliated entity statement)? Please provide specific information for each Beneficiary/affiliated entity.

The project is being implemented by two organizations with very different working culture. FAO is an international agency with consequently well-established and detailed protocols and procedures. AGRINATURA-EEIG members function independently with separate organizational policies, but have a shared culture of research and open decision making. The project represented and required a new type of partnership for both organisations, and inevitable learning and adjustment on both sides. With time, each organization has adapted by focusing on the project results with emphasis on clear process for joint decision-making and action. This required more time and resources than originally envisaged, but has ensured that all parties own the actions and are accountable together.

During this first year of the project, a good working relationship and integration of activities have therefore been established. A partnership agreement was developed and signed by the two parties to guide the project implementation and provide clarity in the roles and responsibilities of each organization.

3.2. How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and State authorities in the Action countries? How has this relationship affected the Action?

The project has 8 pilot countries. Each country is unique, but in all cases the partnership within the country is initiated by the respective FAO country office, following FAO protocol. All pilot countries have now written official letters of interests to host the project, ensuring that the government has clear buy-in the project. After this step, a project document was signed by FAO and the designated government representative agency, stating the project objectives, activities and resources. This process involved negotiations among national partners and project partners, which was in some cases more challenging than originally envisaged, depending on the understanding and appreciation of the partners for the project (which was not assessed during the project identification and development phase).   Initiation of project activities in the different countries was therefore delayed to varying degrees, depending on these negotiations, resulting in some activities scheduled for year 1 being postponed to year 2, and hence under spending of the year 1 budget.

In general, the relationship with authorities in the action countries is moving towards more pragmatic partnerships. By the end of year 1, at least 5 out of 8 pilot countries were able to identify the National Project Coordinator and Country Managers through FAO with joint decision-making process with AGRINATURA-EEIG.

A project governance, communication and management document was developed jointly by AGRINATURA-EEIG members and FAO. It identifies the key teams or committees at global and national level with clear terms of reference of individuals within.

3.3. Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the Action:

In countries where inception workshops have been held, there has been promising commitment from stakeholder organisations in addition to the designated government department or organisation, resulting in multi-stakeholder "technical groups" being formed to support project activities.

3.4. Where applicable, outline any links and synergies you have developed with other actions.

Initial contacts have been made in some countries (e.g. Rwanda) to support capacity development of innovation partnerships formed under other projects and programmes. Such collaboration will be actively sought through the "innovation market places" (A2.3.6)

3.5. **If your organisation has received previous EU grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this Action been able to build upon/complement the previous one(s)? (List all previous relevant EU grants).**

None can be reported within this period.

4. Visibility

How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the Action?

The project has a communications team working on the project's visibility at global and national level. It has a website ([www.cdais.net)](www.cdais.net) and project brochures and posters developed following the EU communication policies.

The European Commission may wish to publicise the results of Actions. Do you have any objection to this report being published on the EuropeAid website? If so, please state your objections here.

We have no objections.

Name of the contact person for the Action:

Name: Dr Guy Poulter

Signature: …………………………………………

Location: …………………………………………

Date report due: ………………………..…………

Date report sent: ……………………………….