

# GFRAS – Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services

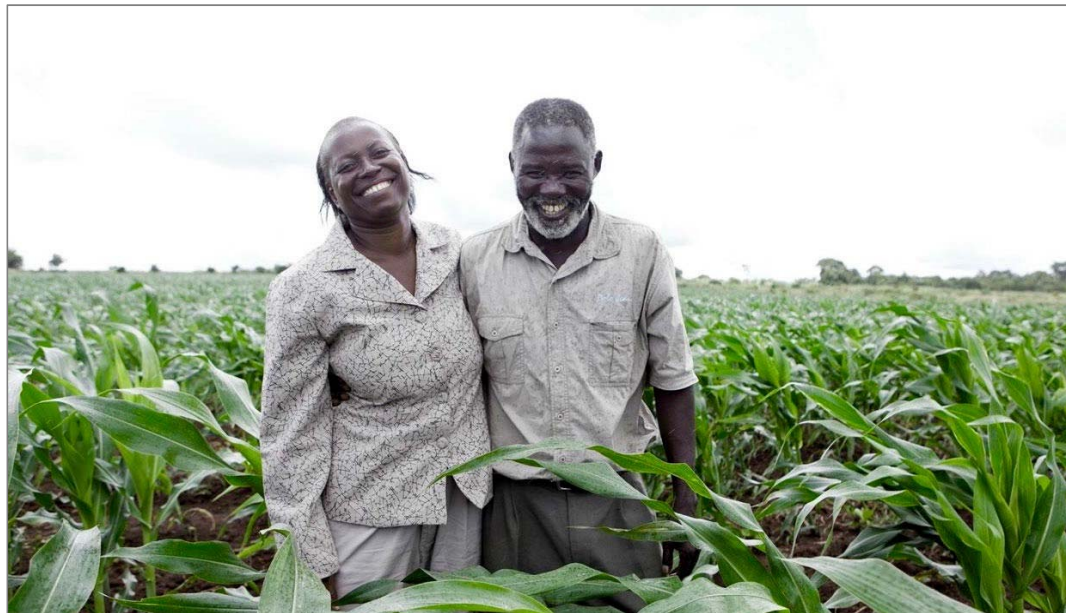
## Partnering with all stakeholders to strengthen the capacities of RAS to contribute to SD

Karim Hussein

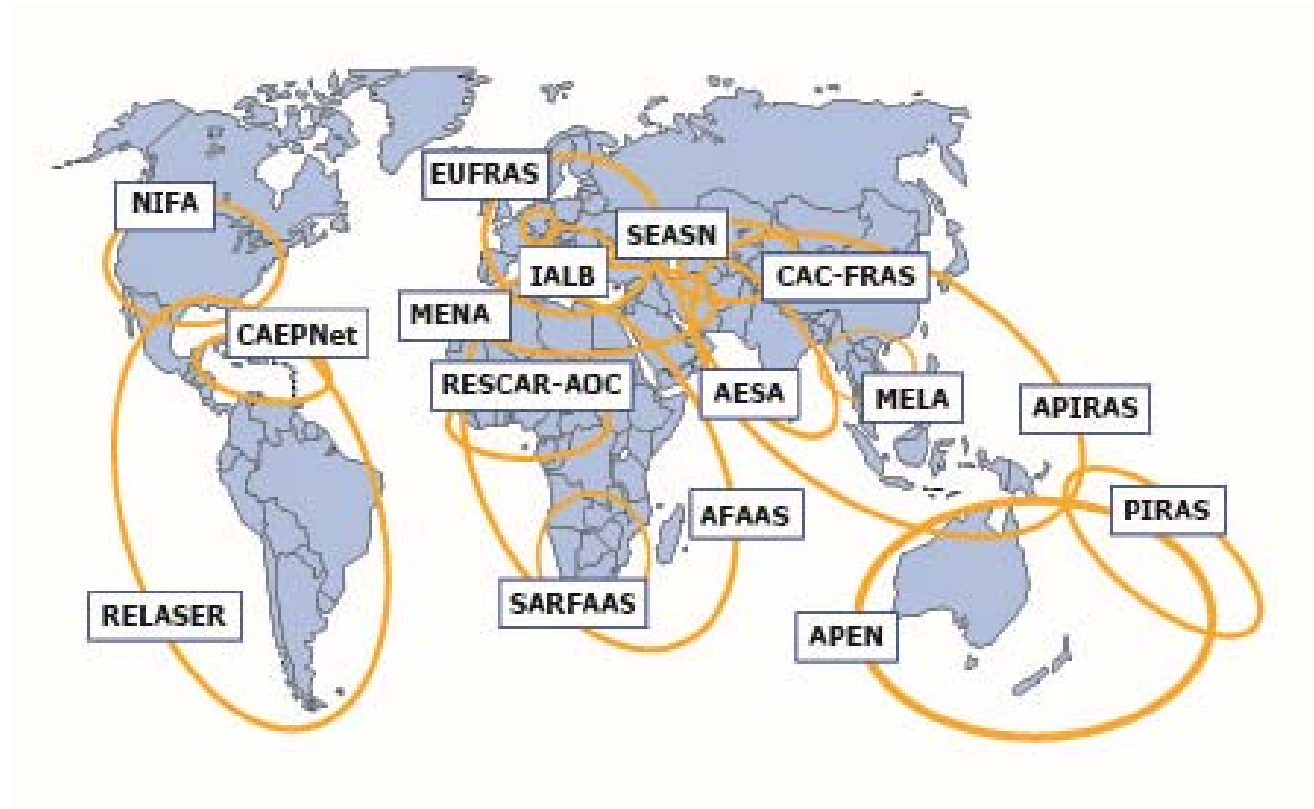
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**Global: 17 regional / sub-regional RAS  
networks (incl. new East Asia network);  
40+ Country Fora**





## Transforming extension/RAS to contribute to meeting new challenges and the SDGs

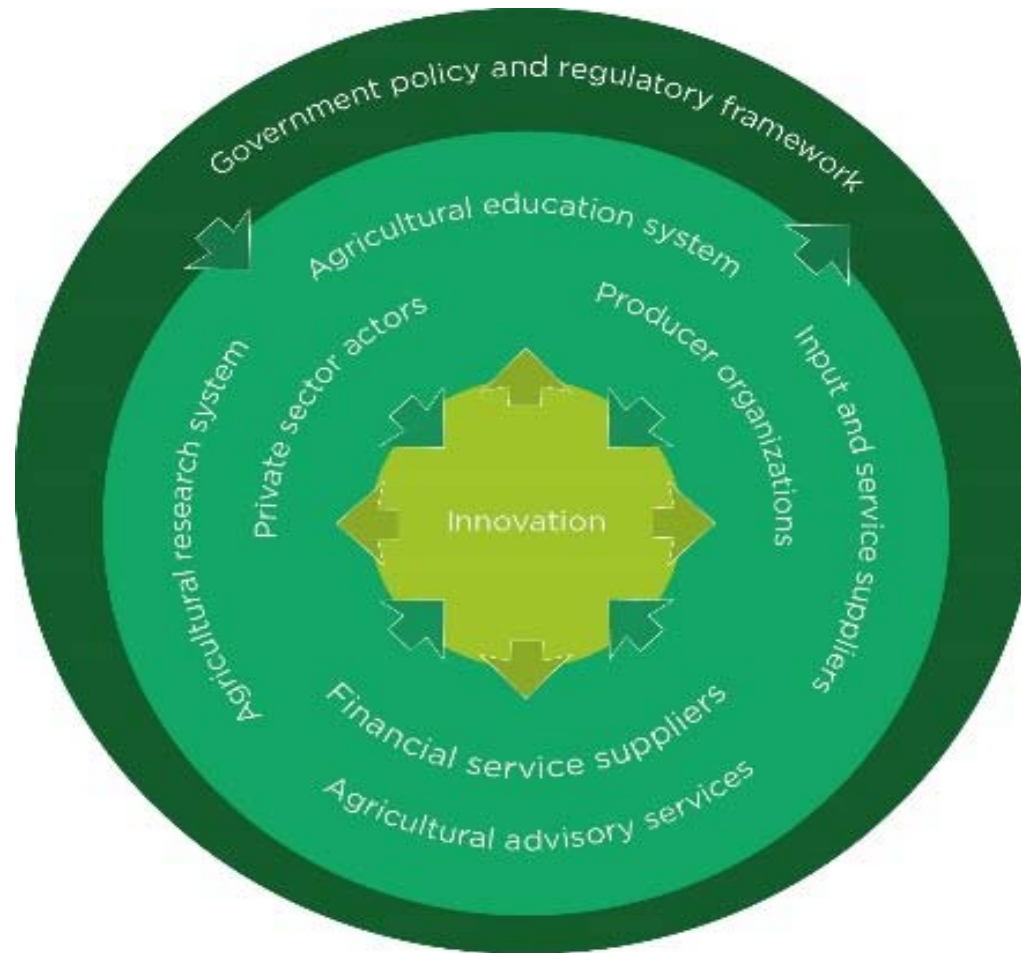
- Public ag. extension services historically disseminated new information, techniques and technologies, often from ag. research, to farmers
- *This approach is not sufficient in the face of current global and regional challenges and extension & advisory services need to adapt*
- Agricultural service providers need to support all actors in agriculture in the generation, adaptation and use of knowledge to face emerging challenges

## New approaches to extension: RAS

*Solutions to these challenges require new forms of interaction, organisation and agreement between multiple RAS stakeholders:*

- include public, private and non-governmental
- encompass all the different activities that provide information, technology, services and innovations needed by rural people and others ag stakeholders
- assist rural actors in developing their own technical, organisational and management skills and practices to improve their livelihoods
- transforming extension: ICT4RAS, digital approaches

## RAS as brokers and facilitators of innovation



## The Agricultural Innovation System

# Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services

- Our **vision** is for rural advisory services to effectively contribute to agricultural innovation systems for sustainable development
- Our **mission** is to provide **advocacy** and **leadership** on pluralistic and demand-driven rural advisory services for sustainable development
- ***GFRAS addresses 3 levels of capacity development:***  
enabling environment; institutions & organisations; individuals

# GFRAS strategic fields of action

1. **Advocacy and support** for an enabling policy environment and appropriate investment in RAS
2. **Professionalisation** of rural advisory services
3. Facilitation of **effective and continuous knowledge generation and exchange**

*In these areas, GFRAS works at the individual, organisational and systemic levels to strengthen capacities*





# Selected Key Activities 2016

- Extension Education and Training
- RAS Policy Compendium
- Global Good Practices Initiative
- Capacity Assessments of RAS networks
- Annual Meeting
- ...





# Recent GFRAS activities

- ***GFRAS Annual Meetings:***  
Representatives from all sectors and regions involved in RAS across 6 continents exchange experiences, knowledge, strengthen networks and foster partnerships for ag. innovation  
(2017 Australia; 2018 Korea)
- ***Publications:*** New Extensionist Learning Kit; GGP's; Position Papers; GIPS (migration, youth, SDGs, )
- ***Global Good Practices Initiative:*** Concise, accessible notes on practical RAS topics, e.g.: use of ICTs; POs; private sector; etc.
- ***GFRAS Working Groups, webinars, e-consultations***



## GFRAS Working Groups

1. Policy for Extension and Advisory Services
2. GFRAS Consortium on Extension Education and Training
3. ICT in RAS/digital approaches (ICT4RAS)
4. Nutrition and RAS
5. Youth and RAS  
(past: POs; gender....)

## New Extensionist Learning Kit (NELK)

- Learning web-based resource for use by individual extension field staff, managers, and lecturers
- Based on the position paper “The New Extensionist - Roles, Strategies, and Capacities to Strengthen Extension and Advisory Services”
- 13 modules for teaching or self-study plus 2; free access
- Laos: among the first countries to translate GFRAS materials into local language: New Extensionist summary and position paper; producer organisation position paper



1. Introduction to the New Extensionist
2. Extension Approaches and Tools
3. Agricultural Extension Programme Management
4. Professional Ethics
5. Adult Learning for Behavioural Change
6. Basic Knowledge Management in Extension
7. Introduction to Facilitation for Development
8. Community Mobilisation
9. Farmer Organisational (FO) Development
10. The Role of Extension in Value Chains
11. Agricultural Entrepreneurship
12. Gender
13. Risk Management and Adaptation



## Global Good Practices Initiative

- Knowledge platform for practitioners
- Short notes on theoretical and practical topics
- Easily accessible and usable
- 25 + notes published in French and English
- Continuously enlarged and updated

More information: [www.betterextension.org](http://www.betterextension.org)



## New GFRAS Issues Paper Series (GIPS)

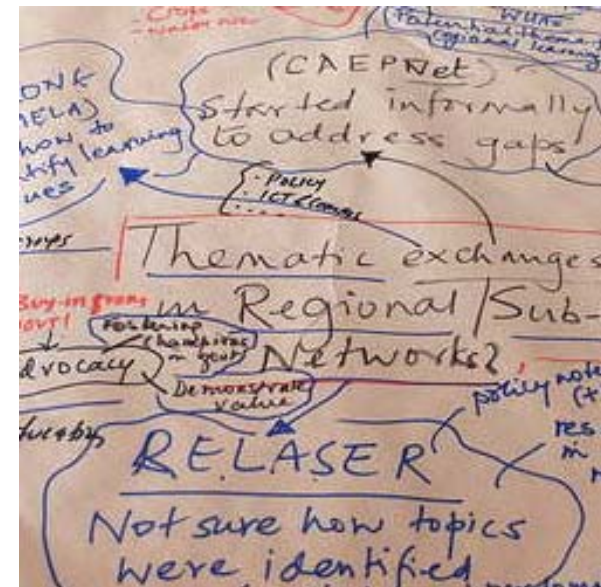
First topics in series:

- RAS and youth
- RAS and migration

Future: RAS and SDGs; RAS and fragile situations;...?

# How is GFRAS organised?

- Steering Committee
- Secretariat
- Organisational members
- Individual affiliates
- Thematic Working Groups





## Annual Meetings – key GFRAS events

- Foster learning and exchange
- Discuss functioning of GFRAS and regional networks

2010: Chile

2011: Kenya

2012: Phillippines

2013: Berlin

2014: Argentina

2015: Kyrgyzstan

2016: Cameroon

2017: Australia

2018: Korea



## 8<sup>th</sup> GFRAS Annual Meeting in Australia, 2017: 'RAS and Empowered Youth for Balanced Transformation in Rural and Urban Communities'

- Held in Ingham and Townsville, Australia, back-to-back with the APEN Annual Meeting from 10-13 September, 2017
  - 80-90 participants from over 30 countries
  - Conclusions and outcomes:
    - RAS need new capacities to empower youth in agricultural value chains
    - RAS must adapt approaches, materials and language to effectively communicate with youth
    - Youth need incentives to be engaged in agriculture and RAS: Make agriculture attractive!
    - RAS can influence govt. policies to create a conducive environment for youth in ag and as extension agents
  - ***Emergence of a GFRAS 'Youth and RAS' Working Group***
- Meeting documents and report available on GFRAS website: [www.g-fras.org](http://www.g-fras.org)*

# Thank you

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Annual Meeting Cameroon:  
3-6 October, Limbe  
'The Role of RAS for Inclusive Agripreneurship'  
150 participants, 45 Countries