

TAP Theory of change

The problems at stake

Many developing countries are endeavoring to address the major challenges facing agriculture and natural resources management, which can be addressed through effective agricultural innovation. However, the countries lack the resources and the capacities to develop their innovation systems effectively. The capacity gap is exacerbated in the tropical region, which is characterized by pervasive poverty, and encompasses almost all least developed countries. At the same time, agricultural innovation has a very high potential for increasing agricultural productivity and farmers' incomes in tropical areas and, consequently, reducing poverty and improving food security and nutrition.

There are numerous existing interventions targeted at addressing the gaps in capacity, education, and knowledge in agricultural innovation in tropical areas. Taken together, these interventions have insufficient alignment with country and regional policy and planning frameworks and with institutional development needs, with too little coordination and synergy between each other. In addition, many are small-scale activities with relatively high transaction costs and limited impact on the ground. Furthermore, many are based on inadequate analysis of interdisciplinary needs and the demands of agricultural markets. Experience has demonstrated that enhanced coherence and stronger partnerships can improve the quality and impact of capacity development in innovation systems.



The TAP approach

The TAP is a multi-lateral dynamic facilitation mechanism initiated by the G20. It capitalizes on and adds value to ongoing initiatives by fostering greater coherence of capacity development interventions in tropical agriculture, strengthening interaction for more harmonized action and greater mutual accountability, and avoiding duplication. An assessment of ongoing initiatives, current priorities, capacities and needs in agricultural innovation systems will lead to the formulation of a strategic action plan and the development of a framework for coordinated actions articulated around the following three services:

- “Policy Dialogue Space”: convening multi-stakeholder interactions which enhance coherence of national, regional and international policies for capacity development in tropical agricultural innovation systems.
- “Marketplace”: brokering effective capacity development approaches and partnerships in tropical agriculture which aggregate and match existing demands and offers, and facilitate up-scaling.
- “TAPipedia”: creating an information system that increases accessibility, improves discoverability and enhances knowledge flows in support of capacity development of tropical innovation systems, capturing success stories, socioeconomic impacts, lessons learned, and innovation outputs.

The TAP partners at national, regional and international level represent constituencies involved in tropical agricultural innovation, that are committed to sharing their knowledge and experiences

and learning from each other and advocating for sound capacity development policy and practice. The intended users of the Platform include policymakers, development agencies, institutions in agricultural innovation (research, extension, education etc), the private sector and civil society engaged in innovation processes to support smallholder producers. TAP will be facilitated by FAO in its role as global convener and knowledge broker.



The difference we make

The strategic goal of TAP is to contribute to the development of national capacities in agricultural innovation in the tropics. The ultimate “impact groups” who will benefit from the Platform will be small and medium-scale producers, as well as small and medium enterprises in the agribusiness sector. TAP will achieve this through:

- fostering capacity development interventions that acknowledge national leadership and ownership and respond to national demands, based on strong partnerships.
- encouraging greater coherence of regional and international capacity development programmes that are aligned with national plans through shared visions.
- improving the efficiency and effectiveness of capacity development to facilitate the emergence of innovation systems in tropical agriculture which increase farmers’ income, food security, nutrition and environmental sustainability.
- facilitating the scaling-up of sustainable development solutions with lower transaction costs, based on integrated approaches across the three capacity dimensions of enabling environment, organizations and individuals.