

# Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS)



# GFRAS vision and mission

*Vision:* for rural advisory services to effectively contribute to agricultural innovation systems for sustainable development.

*Mission:* to provide **advocacy** and **leadership** on pluralistic and demand-driven rural advisory services for sustainable development.

# GFRAS strategic fields of action

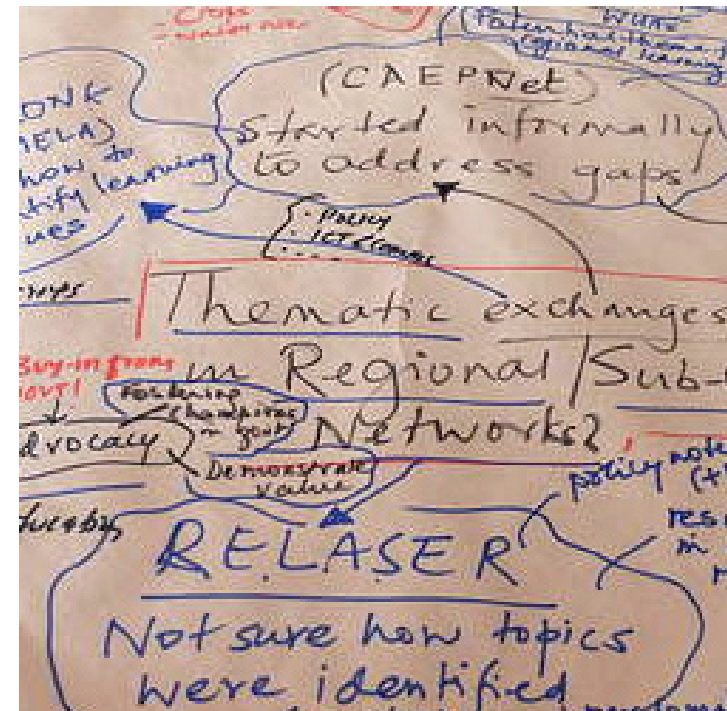
1. Advocacy and support for an enabling policy environment and appropriate investment in RAS
2. Professionalisation of rural advisory services
3. Facilitation and enhancement of effective and continuous knowledge generation and exchange

*In these areas, we work at the individual, organizational, and systemic levels to strengthen capacities*

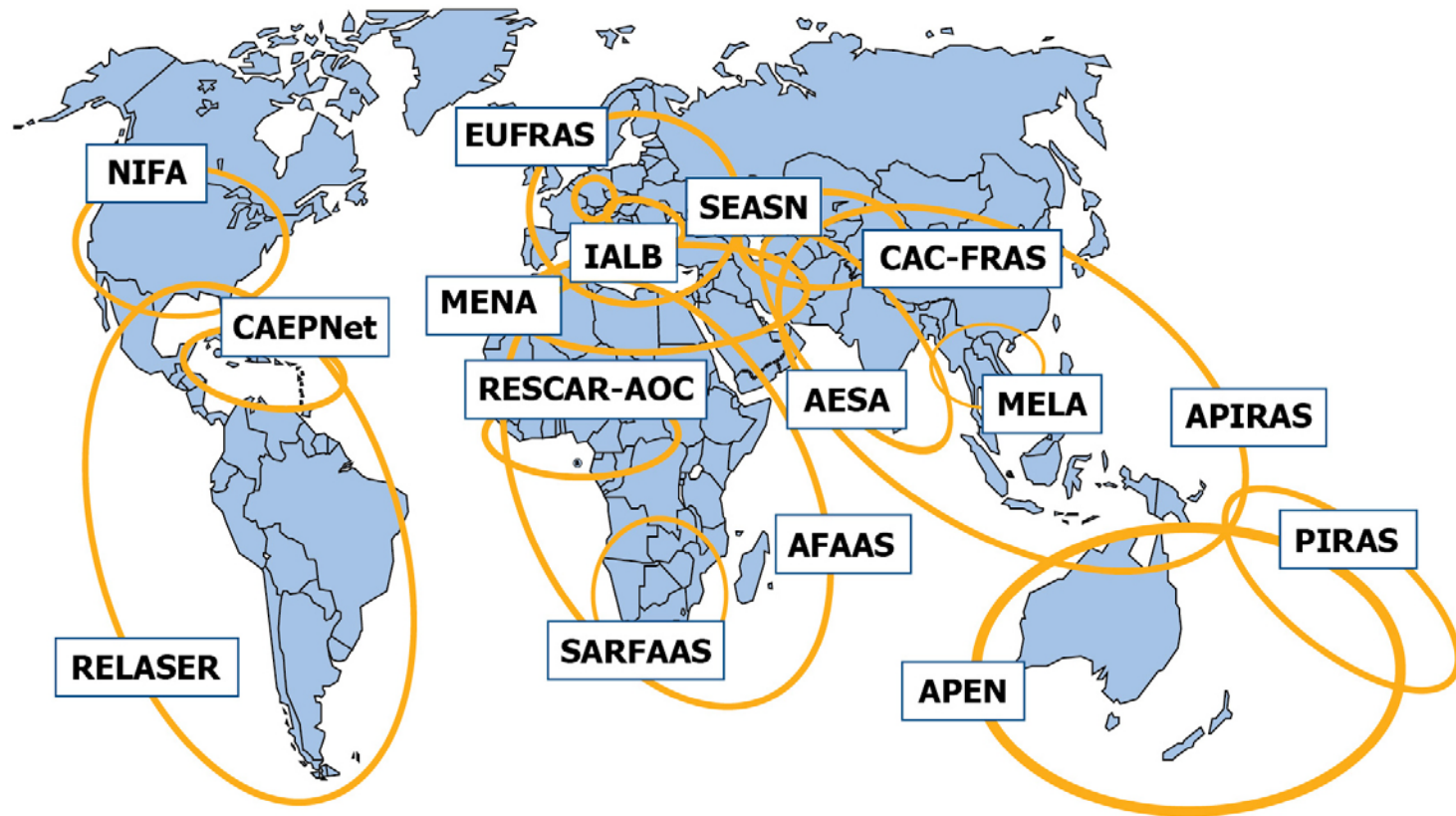


# How are we organised?

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



# Regional networks



# Annual Meetings

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

2010: Chile

2011: Kenya

2012: Philippines

2013: Berlin

2014: Argentina

2015: Kyrgyzstan

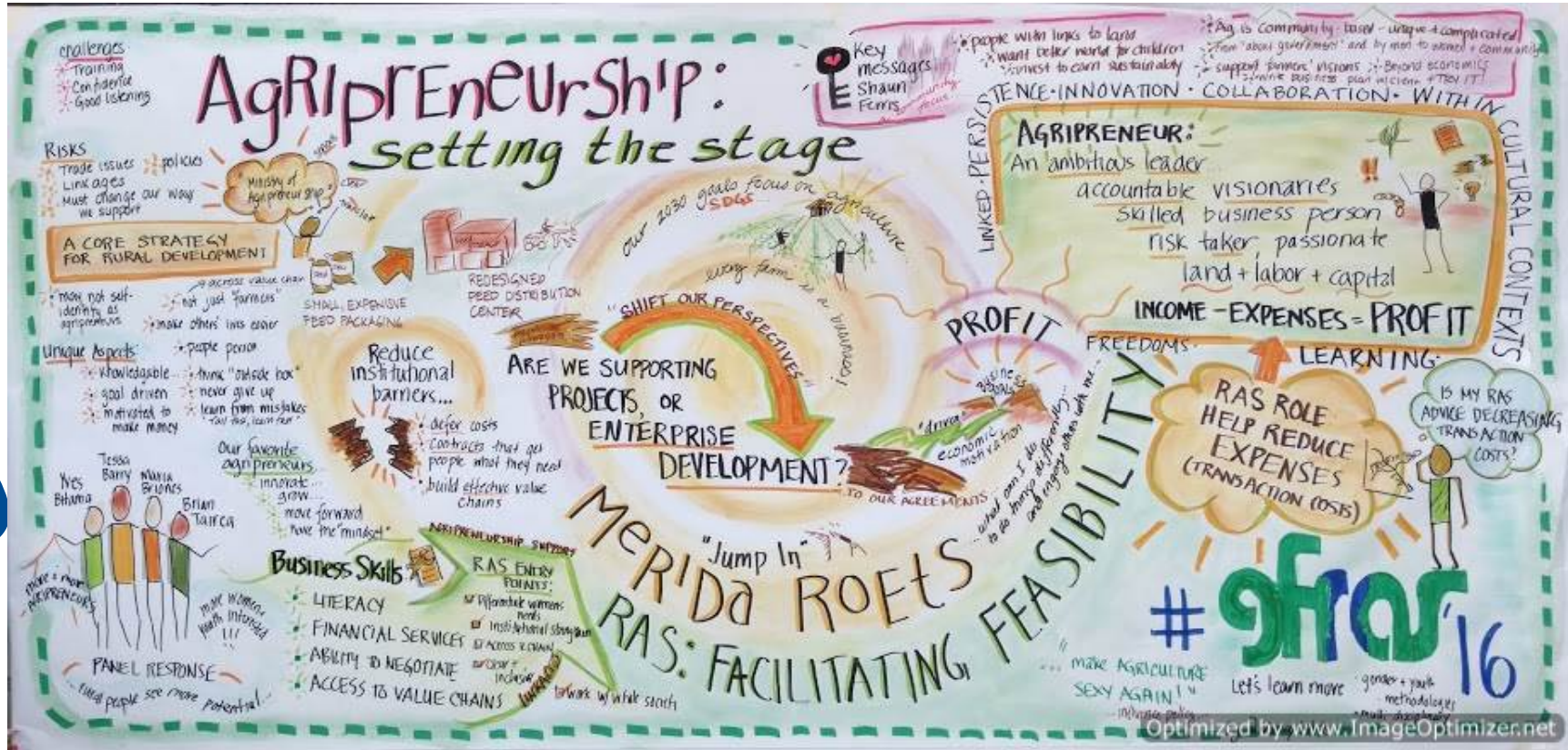
2016: Cameroon

2017: Australia



## 7<sup>th</sup> GFRAS Annual Meeting Cameroon: 3-6 October 2016, Limbe

Over 140 participants from 45 countries -  
one third women; one third aged under 40



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# Focus of Limbe Annual Meeting

## Role of Rural Advisory Services for Inclusive Agripreneurship

*Key questions:*

1. What is agripreneurship, why is it relevant, what can RAS do?  
*(Keynote presentation, panel, plenary discussions)*
2. To strengthen inclusive agripreneurship, what are the roles and capacity needs of:  
(i) individual extensionists; (ii) RAS organisations; and (iii) the enabling environment? *(Parallel sessions)*

# Structure

Field trips

Short presentations

Share fair



# Key events

- RESCAR-AOC regional workshop
- GIA-GFRAS Workshop: *Gender Mainstreaming in Value Chains*
- Testing the *New Extensionist Learning Kit* (agripreneurship and gender modules)
- Capacity assessment training
- GFRAS *Consortium on Extension Education and Training* meeting
- INGENAEAS/FAO: *Supporting gender sensitive service provision*

## Key events (2)

- *FAO: Promoting improving pluralistic RAS systems*
- *AFAAS: Innovative approaches for disseminating post-harvest management technologies*
- *TEAGASC/PIM: Developing a 'Last Mile' agenda for African Agriculture*
- *CIRAD/AFAAS: Scaling innovation in Africa by strengthening advisory services and policy dialogue*
- *AFAAS Board Meeting*
- *GFRAS Steering Committee Meeting*

# Selected conclusions

- RAS need to adapt to and support a new *business-oriented approach* which acknowledges markets, efficiency and profit
- Policy frameworks should address:
  - appropriate education for entrepreneurship
  - financial insurance systems and risk management
  - governance infrastructure; trade; business; and fiscal policies

# Selected conclusions (II)

Rural advisory services need to:

- adopt a *pro-active and reactive* attitude
- recognise the *needs of diverse rural actors*, especially smallholders, women, men, and youth
- encourage *innovation and creativity*
- support *inclusive business models* that:
  - (i) foster sustainability
  - (ii) are both profitable and equitable
  - (iii) share benefits, wealth, create decent jobs

# Selected conclusions (III)

Coordination and sharing is vital to:

- *encourage harmonisation of RAS* services and *enhance coordination* and exchange among all actors along the value chains
- ensure *unconditional access to information* and knowledge by all actors
- build *stronger awareness about RAS networks and fora* strengthening their supportive roles

# Selected conclusions (IV)

Strengthen capacities of all RAS actors:

- organisational and institutional capacities
- appropriate structures, approaches, and methods for providing services
- better functional skills, e.g. in VCs, business, facilitation, mobilisation and negotiating with partners and buyers



# 2017 Annual Meeting

9-12 September 2017, Ingham Australia on:

*“Facilitating balanced change for rural and urban communities”*

# Thank you!

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