

Workshop Programme

Establishment of a virtual extension and research information and communication network in Armenia

TCP/ARM/3103

June 30 – July 1 2009, Yerevan, Hotel Ani Plaza, 'Garni' Meeting Room

Objectives and expected results of workshop

Objectives

1. Present project objectives and concept
2. Share lessons learned from FAO related networks (VERCON, RADCON, AgroWeb, ESCORENA, e-Farmer) experiences
3. Share agricultural innovation systems model and role of ICTs and Communication for Development
4. Develop a shared vision for a virtual extension and research information and communication network in Armenia
5. Identify existing resources, needs for IC and main functions for a virtual extension and research information and communication network in Armenia
6. Define roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and agree on operational framework and action plan.

Expected results

The key output is an operational framework comprising of:

1. Shared vision
2. Main functions of a virtual extension and research information and communication network in Armenia
3. Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders
4. Action plan

Benefits for participants

1. Gain a common understanding of what a virtual extension and research information and communication network is
2. Exchange experiences, assessing linkages and identify gaps at national, regional and global levels
3. Contribute to designing their a virtual extension and research information and communication network in Armenia
4. Agree on roles and responsibilities of the virtual extension and research information and communication network stakeholders
5. Share results in printed form and through Armenian media

Main facilitator Gagik Gabrielyan

Organizing team

Ashot Voskanyan, Nara Yaralyan, Arman Manukyan, Gagik Gabrielyan, Gayane Nasoyan, Michal Demes, Karin Nichterlein, May Hani, Nevena Alexandrova, Laszlo Papocsi, Tomaz Bartol, Narine Khurshudyan

Process of workshop

Powerpoint and online presentations, facilitated group work (3 working groups) and plenary sessions, focused discussions, market place

Workshop Programme

Day 1: Tuesday, 30 June	Session	Speakers/facilitators
09.30-10.00	Registration	
10.00 -10.15	Opening remarks Welcome remarks by FAO	Samvel Avetisyan (The First Deputy Minister of Agriculture) Karin Nichterlein (FAO NRRR Rome)
10.15 -10.20	Introduction of participants	Michal Demes (FAO REU Budapest)
10.20 -10.30	Objectives, expected outputs and programme of workshop, and workshop facilitation process	Ashot Voskanyan, PNC Gagik Gabrielyan, Facilitator
10.30 -11.00	Presentation of the Project (<i>objectives, outputs, capacity building, inputs by FAO, workplan and current status, steering committee in Armenia, and virtual FAO task force</i>)	Michal Demes (LTO) Ashot Voskanyan (NPC)
11:00-11:30	Coffee break	
11.30 -12.30	Information and communication needs assessment of the National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems and their stakeholders Presentation followed by Q/A	Arman Manukyan (FAO National Consultant)
12.30 -13.30	VERCON – lessons learned	Karin Nichterlein (FAO NRRR)
13.30-14.30	Lunch break	
14.30 -15.10	Lessons learnt from ESCORENA Armenian Agricultural Innovation Systems Model and linkages to be strengthened	Nevena Alexandrova (FAO REUT) Karin Nichterlein (FAO NRRR)
15:10 -15:40	Presentation on AgroWeb Network	Nara Yaralyan (National FAO Consultant) Michal Demes (LTO)
15.40 -16.40	Working groups (WG): Information and communication needs of intermediaries (WG1), producers and users (WG2) of knowledge – revisit need assessment study results and complete and refine Coffee served during the session	Participants with Facilitator and FAO consultants
16.40 -17.30	Market Place (WG): - offering existing information/knowledge by participating stakeholders (what, where, in which format, for whom and how accessible: free or fee?) Present methodology: individual brain storming, presentation of offer on flip charts	Participants with facilitator and FAO consultants and staff
17:30 -17:50	Preparation of group work presentations for the next day	Working group participants with Facilitator
17.50 -18.00	Evaluation of day 1 by participants on flip chart	Participants
18:00 -18.30	Meeting of organizing team, reflection on day 1 and adjustment of programme for day 2	Organizing team only: NPC, facilitator, consultants

Day 2: Wednesday 1 July 09	Session	Speakers/facilitators
10.00 -11.00	Presentation of group work to plenary and summary of day 1 including market place	Facilitator
11.00 -11.50	Lessons learnt from e-Farmer EU project <i>Presentation followed by Q/A</i> Access to the global agricultural knowledge (Agora, Hinari, Agris) <i>Presentation followed by Q/A</i>	Laszlo Papocsi, FAO International Consultant Tomaz Bartol, FAO International Consultant
11.50-12.10	Coffee break	
12.10 -12.40	Presentation on the 'Communication for Development' concept <i>Presentation followed by Q/A</i>	May Hani (FAO NRRR)
12.40 -13.40	- Functionalities of Armenian virtual extension and research information and communication network – Priority setting for the pilot phase WGs (40min), plenary (20min)	Facilitator Arman Manukyan, Laszlo Papocsi and Tomaz Bartol (FAO Consultants)
13.40-14.40	Lunch break	
14.40 -15.40	Matching functionalities with IC needs, and existing offers: - Main functions - Stakeholders' participation in VERCON (roles, responsibilities). WGs: 40 min, plenary: 20 min	Facilitator, FAO consultants
15.40 -16.00	Validation of project objectives (still valid for the objectives of VERCON pilot phase?) Plenary session	Facilitator, Nevena Alexandrova (FAO REUT)
16.00-16.15	Coffee Break	
16.15 -16.45	Training needs for VERCON stakeholder (<i>who? what? - ICTs, ComDev, writing for web, knowledge sharing, repackaging and design etc</i>) - Plenary session	Facilitator
16.45 -17.30	Action plan for pilot phase (<i>activity, by when, by whom, resources required</i>) Plenary session	Facilitator and FAO consultants
17.30-17.45	Summary of the results	Facilitator
17:45 -18.00	Close of the Workshop	Ashot Voskanyan Michal Demes Nevena Alexandrova