



## Agricultural Extension Platform for South Asia (AEPSA)

### THIRD MEETING OF THE AEPSA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Date: 5th June, 2026, 05.30 PM (IST) Onwards**  
**Venue: KAB-I Pusa New Delhi for Physical Presence**  
**(To be conducted in Hybrid mode)**

#### PROGRAM

Time	Item	By
5:30PM 5:35PM	Welcome	Dr R N Padaria, CRP India
5:35PM 5:37PM	Confirmation of the Minutes of IInd Advisory Committee Meeting	Dr VV Sadamate, Chief Coordinator, AEPSA
5:37PM 5:47PM	Action Taken Report in brief & Resource Mobilization	do
5:47PM 6:07PM	AEPSA - Progress Report in the Partner Countries	By the CRPs 1. Bangladesh - Dr Hamidur Rahman 2. Bhutan - Mr BB Rai 3. India - Dr RK Tripathi 4. Nepal - Dr YK Karki 5. Sri Lanka - Dr Chandana Jayawardena
6:07PM 6:12PM	Observations/Suggestions	Dr Karim Maredia Dr P. Chandrashekhara, DG, CIRDAP
6:12PM 6:17PM	Remarks	Dr Rajbir Singh, Vice President, AEPSA & DDG, AE ICAR
6:17PM 6:25PM (8 Mins)	Concluding Remarks by the Chairman AEPSA Advisory Committee	Dr RS Paroda, Chairman, TAAS & AEPSA Advisory Committee
6:25PM 6:30PM	Vote of Thanks	Dr RR Burman, ADG AE, ICAR

## AGENDA NOTES

Sr No.	Agenda Items	Annexure	Page No
	<b>Minutes to Minutes Program</b>	<b>Attached</b>	
1	Confirmation of the Minutes of the II Advisory Committee Meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> December, 2025	Annexure - I	11-16
2	Action Taken Report on the decisions/recommendations of the II Advisory Committee Meeting	Annexure - II	17-18
3	Review of Important activities		
3.1	AEPSA Establishment		
3.2	AEPSA Founders/ Supporters		
3.3	Knowledge Partners		
3.4	Reconstitution of the Advisory Committee		
3.5	Membership Drives Conducted		
3.6	Membership Count in the Partner Countries & Category wise		
4	AEPSA Website		
5	Resource Mobilization		
6	Resources Credited & Expenditure incurred - Update (ending April, 2026)	Annexure - III	19
7	Cross-Learning Possibilities Matrix (CLPM)	Annexure - IV	Separately attached
8	AEPSA Country Agricultural Extension Profiles (C-AEPs) - II Phase Partner Countries		
9	Linkages with Regional/Global Networks		
10	HRD - Proposals- Paid Training Programs in the areas prioritized in the II <sup>nd</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting	Annexure - V	21-24
11	Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2026-27	Annexure - VI	25-26
12	Monitoring the Progress		
13	Major Action Points and Way Forward		

## AGENDA NOTES - III ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

1. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the II Advisory Committee Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 - Annexure I**
2. **ATR on the Decisions/Recommendations of the II Advisory Committee Meeting - Annexure-II**
3. **Review of the Important Activities**

### 3.1 AEPSA Establishment

- ✧ Started functioning from 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 as a TAAS Program, initially for two years (up to March,2026, support continues)
- ✧ Core Secretariat (I). VVS, Senior Consultant - Chief Coordinator, (ii). RKT (informal/part-time), (iv). Attaluri (Informal) & (iv). SKD (Full Time as Technical Associate)
- ✧ The ICAR has provided an office space, Room 106, KAB-I for AEPSA - Lease dead singed, physical possession taken from 1<sup>st</sup> Apr, 2026, Shifted on 08 May, 2026. Required renovation & furnishing in progress.

### 3.2 AEPSA Founders/ Supporters

- ✧ Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), New Delhi
- ✧ Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Limited (MAHYCO)
- ✧ Rasi Seeds Pvt Ltd, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
- ✧ Michigan State University (MSU), USA

### 3.3 Knowledge Partners Contributions and Status of GO Membership

- ✧ IARI, New Delhi (KP Membership contribution **awaited**)
- ✧ CIRDAP, Dhaka, Bangladesh (KP Membership contribution **awaited**)
- ✧ NFAC, Kathmandu- (Knowledge Partner Membership **contribution received**)
- ✧ PRDIS, Hyderabad (Knowledge Partner Membership contribution **awaited**)
- ✧ SLAEA, Sri Lanka - (Knowledge Partner Membership contribution **awaited**)
- ✧ BAEN, Dhaka- (Knowledge Partner Membership contribution **awaited**)

**GO Membership Status:** It is under active consideration in Bhutan, India & Nepal.

Update not available in respect of Bangladesh & Sri Lanka

### **3.4 Reconstitution of the Advisory Committee**

- ✧ The AEPSEA Advisory Committee is the prime body to steer and guide the programs and activities of AEPSEA. It is Chaired by Dr RS Paroda, Chairman, TAAS & Former Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR.
- ✧ DDG, Ag. Extension, ICAR is the Vice Chairman of the Platform now.
- ✧ Country Resource Persons and other eminent extension experts and organizations (National/International) are its members.
- ✧ Bhutan nomination - yet to be confirmed
- ✧ The Advisory Committee activities are organized and followed up by the Chief Coordinator, AEPSEA in collaboration with national/international stakeholders and country resource persons (CRPs).

### **3.5 Brochure Revised**

- ✧ Feedback received during the stakeholders annual review held in Nepal (6-7<sup>th</sup> June, 2025) and from the partner countries/stakeholders accommodated. Membership categories and Fee structure were further modulated and shared with the stakeholders
- ✧ Membership drive moving positively in India & Nepal. Other partner countries- yet to activate.

### **3.6 Details of Membership Drives Conducted in India :**

- ✧ SEE Annual Conference, Bhubaneswar (Nov,2025)
- ✧ PJTSAU, Hyderabad (Dec, 2025)
- ✧ UAS Bangalore (Jan, 2026)
- ✧ SVPUAT, Meerut (7<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2026)
- ✧ TANUVAS, Chennai (24-26 Jan, 2026)
- ✧ ISEE Conference, Goa (29-31<sup>st</sup>, Jan, 2026)
- ✧ PRDIS, Hyderabad Conference (18-20 Feb, 2026)
- ✧ CAU, Manipur, camp Meghalaya (7-8 March, 2026)

### 3.7 Membership Count - Partner Country & Category-wise (Ending May, 2026)

Sl. No.	Category	India	Nepal	Bhutan	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka
1	GO Organization	-	-	-	-	-
2	International Organizations/Institutes.	-	-	-	-	-
3	Agri. Inst/Univs.	-	-	-	-	-
4	Professional Society	-	-	-	-	-
5	NGOs	2	2	-	1	-
6	Farm Cooperatives	-	-	-	-	-
7	Organizing Partners	2 (TAAS & MSU)	1	-	-	-
	Knowledge Partners	-	-	-	-	-
8	Corporates/Companies/Agribusinesses	2	-	-	-	-
9	Extension Specialists/Scientists/Individuals	40	2	-	1	-
10	FOs/Farmers/Scholars	Students-6 Farmers-37	-	-	-	-
	Total	89	5		2	
<b>Total Members - 96</b>						

### 4. AEPSA Website

- ✧ AEPSA website launched at Kathmandu, Nepal on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2025.
- ✧ Now fully operational. Website link <https://taas.in/aepsa/index.html>.
- ✧ It is being regularly updated with relevant material, it includes the following recent updates
- ✧ Country Agricultural Extension Profiles (C-AEPs) uploaded as reference material
- ✧ Advisory Committee Meeting Proceedings (5<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2024 & 13<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2025).
- ✧ Nepal stakeholders meeting proceedings.
- ✧ The matter is being regularly followed up with the partner countries for uploading relevant material/links from their end. The response is not very encouraging. Website demo proposed to improve this situation.
- ✧ It is linked with major social media – FB, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter & LinkedIn.
- ✧ The CRPs and other stakeholders may share the social media posts of AEPSA through their networks, also for its greater visibility.

**Visitor count of AEPISA website is progressing fast in the region and globally, as follows:**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Country Name</b>	<b>Visitor Number (as on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2026)</b>
1	India	584
2	United States	68
3	Singapore	77
4	China	78
5	Bangladesh	21
6	Bhutan	5
7	Nepal	5
8	Thailand	3
9	Russia	3
10	Pakistan	2
11	Canada	2
12	Japan	2
13	Qatar	1
14	Oman	1
15	Finland	1
16	Italy	2
17	Netherlands	1
18	Romania	1
19	Germany	2
20	Hong Kong	1
21	Ireland	2
22	Austria	1
23	Indonesia	1
24	Poland	1
25	Sri Lanka	1
	<b>Total visits by Countries</b>	<b>25</b>
	<b>Total Visitor Number</b>	<b>866</b>

## **5. Resource Mobilization**

- ✧ Government Organization as a member is yet to be materialized in all phase-I countries.
- ✧ Under active consideration, India & Bhutan.
- ✧ CRPs (Bangladesh, Nepal & Sri Lanka may kindly update.
- ✧ The Membership Categories & Fee Structure have been rationalized and moderated now.

- ✧ All the stakeholders (Public/private, national/international, etc) have been requested for the funding support, and it is being followed-up
- ✧ Knowledge partners are being approached for their contribution.
- ✧ The Country Resource Persons (CRPs) and the GO Reps have been requested to conduct intensive membership drives in the respective countries to broaden their membership base and mobilize the resources.
- ✧ India has already enrolled 86 members, Nepal 5 members and Bangladesh 2, making a total of 93 across the categories.
- ✧ Nepal country resource person (Dr Y K Karki) has already enrolled as an Individual member and NAFC as knowledge partner. Besides, 1 more individual and 2 NGOs from Nepal have been enrolled.
- ✧ Dr Hamidur Rahman, CRP Bangladesh, has enrolled as an Individual member & BAEF as enrolled as NGO Member.
- ✧ However, other partner CRPs (Bhutan & Sri Lanka) and Knowledge Partners (IARI, CIRDAP, PRDIS, BAEN & SLAEA) are yet to initiate enrolment, despite positive assurances. AEPSA secretariat is following it up seriously at various levels.

## **6. Resources Credited & Expenditure - Update**

- ✧ So far, INR 35.43 Lakh have been credited to AEPSA through various sources (Rasi Seeds, Mahyco, TAAS, MSU & Membership enrolment).
- ✧ The reported expenditure ending April 2026 is Rs 28.67 Lakh. This leaves just about Rs 6.70 Lakh, which is far less than the ongoing commitments and support to the programs and activities proposed for 2026-27.
- ✧ Hence, there is an urgent need for augmenting the funding support for AEPSA.
- ✧ Details of funds mobilized, expenditures reported, and tentative savings ending May 2026 are provided in **Annexure- III**

## **7. Cross-Learning Possibilities Matrix (CLPM)**

- ✧ The Country Agricultural Extension Profiles (C-AEPs) for the first phase countries were presented in the Nepal Meeting (6-7<sup>th</sup> June, 2025)
- ✧ One of the recommendations highlighted for developing a Cross-Learning Possibilities Matrix (CLPM), wherein each country resource person was requested to identify impacting extension innovations and success stories and propose cross-learning possibilities with

other partner countries

- ✧ Indian impacting innovations have been listed as an illustration, and other partner countries were requested to list their priority innovations.
- ✧ Such exercise from other partner countries may facilitate the identification of areas for initiating innovative pilots, to be funded by national/international agencies.
- ✧ CLPM for India is already mapped in Nepal Proceedings.
- ✧ Bhutan has carried out some rough exercise which are being considered for CLPM purposes, details awaited.
- ✧ CLPM awaited from the partner countries. (Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka) (AEPSA Secretariat has worked on it and draft areas identified for pilots). **Annexure-IV**

## **8. AEPSA C-AEPs- II Phase Partner Countries**

- ✧ As was done for the first phase countries, the draft C-AEPs for phase II countries (Afghanistan, Maldives and Pakistan) have been prepared by the AEPSA secretariat based on secondary data and in consultation with specialized institutions.
- ✧ These have been shared with the respective countries for perusal by the agriculture and allied sector stakeholders for further refinement.
- ✧ The final C-AEPs (2<sup>nd</sup> Phase countries ) shall be presented during the forthcoming Annual Stakeholders meeting, likely to be organized in September, 2026.

## **9. Linkage with Regional/Global Networks**

- ✧ It is proposed to initiate International collaborative programs with South Asian & African countries through the lead CGIAR institutes.
- ✧ One such proposal (concept note) has been attempted by the AEPSA Secretariat for innovative extension collaboration for promoting digital agriculture extension, to be jointly planned and operated by ISSCA (ICRISAT) and AEPSA. It is under consideration. India, Kenya & Malawi are to be reviewed by ISSCA (ICRISAT) & Bangladesh, Nepal & Sri Lanka are to be treated by AEPSA. Bhutan may also be considered, depending on its formal response to joining the AEPSA platform.
- ✧ The project is tentatively scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> months with a tentative cost of rupees 1 crore approximately, supported by NABARD.
- ✧ A research proposal on innovations in training and capacity building in Plantation crops and in collaboration with Indian Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM), Bangalore,

India and Peradeniya University, Sri Lanka already been submitted to CIRDAP for funding support. The research project is tentatively planned for a 12-month period with a tentative cost of Rs 7.5 lakh. The project could not be approved in the first screening. Now as learnt from CIRDAP, the project is under consideration for “pooled funding support”

#### **10. HRD - Proposal- Paid Training Programs**

- ✧ HRD interventions (paid training courses in crucial areas) are under consideration to be organized in partnership with lead national/international subject matter institutes/agencies.
- ✧ 7 core areas have been identified in the last advisory committee meeting (**Annexure-V**). Further, One more area on economizing fertilizer application has been added in-consultation by FAI.
- ✧ The lead institutions and the nodal points have been addressed for further follow-up on the pattern of guideline sharing.

#### **11. Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2026-27**

- ✧ The Annual Work Plan FY 2026-27 primarily centred around accelerating the programmatic interventions in the partner countries, initiating innovative pilots, providing core manpower support, developing C-AEPs (2nd Phase Countries), working out cross-learning possibilities and initiating innovating pilots, arranging model HRD programs for AEPsA core team & extension professionals in the partner countries, providing furniture, fitting, connectivity, renovation for upgrading the office space, website management, inter country programs and travel, etc.
- ✧ Details of funds required for the current financial year for 2026-2027 are provided in **Annexure-VI**

#### **12. Monitoring the Progress**

- ✧ M&E modalities set in are: Half-Yearly and Annual Reviews, Country-Specific Dialogues, need-based reports, etc.
- ✧ First Annual Meet was held on 6-7<sup>th</sup> June, 2025, at Kathmandu, Nepal. The proceedings & recommendations have already been shared with the stakeholders,
- ✧ Crucial recommendations like cross-learning, preparation of C-AEPs for II-phase countries, and improving visibility of the AEPsA website. HRD interventions, partnerships with International agencies, etc., are being followed up.

- ✧ **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual stakeholders meet (2026)** - It is proposed to be organized in the willing partner country. Correspondence is ongoing with Bhutan for hosting the same. Positive response - being rescheduled to September 2026.

### **13. Major Issues for Further Follow-up**

- i. Registration of AEPSA as a Society - It is progressing.
- ii. Government Membership - being followed up - India & Bhutan are actively pursuing, others may do so.
- iii. Additional manpower (Coordinator - ICT & Networking, Technical Associate-1, Office Secretary & Accountant) - Depending on fund mobilizations. Also, a multitasking support staff is urgently required.
- iv. Furnishing and equipping office space - It is progressing.
- v. Mobilize funding support (Membership, Corporate Funds and Donations-National/International)
- vi. Promote linkages with regional & global extension networks - (CIRDAP, ICRISAT and Canadian support for Bhutan & Nepal)
- vii. Follow up on the cross-learning possibilities matrix (CLPM) and identify the important areas for innovative pilots, to be supported by the national/international agencies.
- viii. Update AEPSA website on a regular basis (Response from partner countries needs improvements)
- ix. Initiate efforts on Training & CB of AEPSA core & CRPs - Follow up on the identified core areas - may be prioritized
- x. Re-originating extension services promoting judicious use of fertilizers in the current global energy crisis has emerged as an additional priority (CRP India- IARI, AEPSA & FAI may jointly consider/lead it)
- xi. Follow-up on the AEPSA, Bank account and FCRA clearance - to be taken up after registration.
- xii. Initiate action on the next annual stakeholders meeting in September 2026 - follow-up with the Government of Bhutan.
- xiii. Printing the Phase -I Country Agricultural Extension Profiles (C-AEPs) for reference, selective distributions and record (50 copies each).

## Annexure- I

### AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PLATFORM FOR SOUTH ASIA (AEPSA)

#### SECOND MEETING OF THE AEPSA ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD AT KAB-I, PUSA, NEW DELHI, ON 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025

#### PROCEEDINGS

The second meeting of the AEPSA Advisory Committee was held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 in hybrid mode under the Chairmanship of Dr R.S. Paroda, Chairman, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), Former Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR, Gol and the Chairman of the AEPSA Advisory Committee.

The following participants including the Advisory Committee members and special invitees attended the meeting:

1. Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chairman, TAAS and AEPSA Advisory Committee **(Online)**
2. Dr. Rajbir Singh, DDG (Agril. Extn.), IACR & Vice Chair, AEPSA Advisory Committee
3. Dr. Karim Maredia, Director, MSU & Member, AAC
4. Dr. V.V. Sadamate, Chief Coordinator, AEPSA
5. Dr. R.R. Burman, ADG (Agril. Extn.), ICAR (Special Invitee)
6. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara DG, CIRDAP & Member, AAC **(Online)**
7. Dr. R.N. Padaria, Joint Director (Extn), IARI & Country Representative, India
8. Dr. Yogendra Karkee, Country Representative, Nepal **(Online)**
9. Dr. Hamidur Rahman, Country Representative, Bangladesh **(Online)**
10. Dr. R.K. Tripathi, Coordinator (P&P), AEPSA **(Online)**
11. Dr. S.C. Attaluri, Former Director, MANAGE & **(Online)**

12. Dr. N.V. Kumbhare, Principal Scientist (Agri. Extn) & Incharge, ATIC, IARI (Special Invitee)

13. Dr. Rakib Hasan, Bangladesh (**Online**)

14. Mr. Swatantra Dubey, Technical Associate, AEPSA

Dr Bhag Mal, Secretary, TAAS and Member, AEPSA Advisory Committee, could not attend the meeting due to being unwell.

### **Welcome Remarks**

At the outset, Dr. N.V. Kumbhare, Principal Scientist (Agri. Extn.) & Incharge, ATIC, IARI welcomed the Dr. Rajbir Singh, DDG (Agril. Extn.), ICAR & Vice Chair, AEPSA Advisory Committee; Dr. Karim Maredia, Director, International Programs, Michigan State University, USA; Dr. R.R. Burman, ADG (Agril. Extn.), ICAR and Dr. P Chandra Sekhara, Director General, CIRDAP and distinguished country representative and members AEPSA Advisory Committee namely: Dr. Hamidur Rahman from Bangladesh, Dr. Yogendra Kumar Karki from Nepal, Dr. R.N. Padaria, India and Dr. V.V. Sadamate, Chief Coordinator, AEPSA.

He also extended a warm welcome to all the Special Invitees - Dr R.K. Tripathi, Coordinator (P&P), AEPSA; Dr. S.C. Attaluri, Former Director, MANAGE & other invitee Mr. Rakib Hassan from Bangladesh.

### **Opening Remarks**

Dr. Rajbir Singh, DDG (Agril. Extension), ICAR profusely thanked AEPSA /ICAR for their consideration to position him as Vice Chair, AEPSA Advisory Committee. He then extended warm welcome to the Chair and members of the AEPSA Advisory Committee. While appreciating the progress made by the AEPSA in a short span of a year and half, he emphasized on the following:

- The Kathmandu resolution and the recommendations are self-explanatory, which are focused on sourcing the extension innovations, and their cross-learning in the region through innovative pilots.
- This task appeared to be very challenging and needed support of the stakeholders, including Government ownership, broader membership base across the identified categories and networking with the regional & global extension agencies.
- A lot of efforts have gone into the development of country agriculture extension profile (C-AEPs) that provided strong basis for sourcing and dissemination of extension innovations.
- The frontline extension network in India is progressing rapidly and has an excellent network at the regional level (ATARIs,) at the district level (KVKs) that provided systematically organized technical backstopping to the field extension and private extension efforts.

- The funding support for such interventions would need to be mobilized through national and international agencies.
- The country representatives need to facilitate improving the contents and the visibility of AEPSA website, to make it useful and productive to the intended stakeholders, farmers and extension services providers in the region.
- This regional responsibility needed a good funding support from the countries and from the members across the categories to make it fully operational. Hence, there is urgency for resource mobilization.

The Vice Chair, AEPSA then reinforced on the commitments by the partner countries for making AEPSA more efficient and responsive to the intended activities in the region. Finally, while appreciating the efforts of team AEPSA and the country representatives, he sincerely thanked Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chair, AEPSA Advisory Committee, a great visionary in the farm sector for his efforts in conceptualizing, initiating and supporting this platform.

Dr. R.S. Paroda, who attended for short while the meeting virtually, extended warm welcome to Dr. Rajbir Singh, Vice Chair of Advisory Committee and all participants. He also appreciated the efforts of AEPSA Secretariat and Country Contact Points (CCPs) in grounding this crucial initiative. The current situation perhaps needs more of private sector extension support including that of competent NGOs (e.g. BRAC, Bangladesh, BAIF, India, etc.), FOs, FPCs, and Startups, etc. He emphasized on enhancing the financial status of AEPSA and urged the country representatives to speed-up the membership drive. Dr. Paroda urged for strong support from CIRDAP, Dhaka in terms of institutional membership, programme partnership and interface opportunities with other member countries (annual meeting). Dr. Paroda desired that the knowledge partner agencies should enroll as members of AEPSA and augment resource mobilization and pursue Govt. membership as well. Further, Dr. Paroda suggested that Dr. Rajbir Singh may ICAR becoming an important member of AEPSA and ensure linkages with national extension network to take up innovative pilots and regional dialogues.

### **Update on AEPSA**

Dr. V.V. Sadamate, Chief Coordinator, AEPSA presented a detailed update on the developments over the year and half with reference to the recommendations of AEPSA initiation meet held on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2024. He highlighted the salient points as follows:

- The minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> AEPSA Advisory Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, and the action taken report were duly approved.
- AEPSA started functioning as informal professional platform initially for two years as TAAS Program,

- A core team is in place - Chief Coordinator (Dr. V.V. Sadamate), Coordinator (P&P) - Dr. RK Tripathi (Part time) and one young professional (S.K. Dubey). The services of Dr. Attaluri, Retd. Dy. Director, MANAGE are proposed to be availed on need basis, especially in the areas of ICT and networking. The backup support including logistic is provided by TAAS.
- AEPSA Brochure has been revised, website is in place and being updated regularly, membership drive in India and other countries is on, resource mobilization activated, cross learning possibilities of impacting innovations being worked out, C-AEPs for phase-II countries have been initiated, M&E arrangement are worked out and annual work plan for 2025-26 as well as the budget details for the 2026-27 are being worked out.

### **Interventions by the Country Resource Persons:**

Dr Hamidur Rahman, President, Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN) & Former Director General (DG) Agriculture while appreciating the AEPSA initiative, pointed out that the farm sector in Bangladesh is facing challenges of land, climate change and price realization to the farmers. While observing the slow pace on membership drive, he assured to promote it soon with enrolment of BAEN and BAEF. He also mentioned that he himself would enroll as a member soon and a few individual members, innovative farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, NGOs etc. would be followed up to join AEPSA . He observed that there are greater possibilities of HR collaboration in partner countries promoting good extension practices in various sectors including fisheries. He stated that the Govt. support would be possible only after the general election in Bangladesh is over.

Dr Yogendra Karkee, Former Secretary Agriculture, Nepal and Chairman, Nepal Farmers Advisory Council, Kathmandu while supporting the mission AEPSA indicated that there is wider appreciation to this proposed initiative by the Agriculture Ministry and Nepal Agricultural Research Council and foresaw greater possibilities of AEPSA engagements and proposed networks. He further assured to enroll members covering various categories and already some NGOs have joined the mission AEPSA and suggested to mobilize the funds by taking up innovative projects. He informed that the farmers training and exchange of extension experts and promotion of organic farming may be flagged as possible areas for pilots and collaborations.

Dr. Chandana Jayawardena, Country representative, Sri Lanka could not join the meeting. However, in his email response he assured on his individual membership and suggested AEPSA to take up a few entry point activities in Sri Lanka enabling its visibility with the stakeholders. The funding support for such initiatives may be mobilized through national/ international agencies.

Country representative, Bhutan could not join the meeting reportedly because of connectivity problem. However, the following points noted referring Bhutan: (i) Bhutan may work out Cross Learning Possibilities Matrix (CLPM) and provide their

input in the format provided (Annex IV of the Nepal Meeting Proceedings) by the end of December, 2025. It would enable AEPSA Secretariat to identify the priority areas for innovative pilots, to be funded by the national/ international agencies, (ii) Bhutan agriculture department may consider nominating a suitable representative on the AEPSA advisory committee, who may act as primary contact for AEPSA representing department of agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan and (iii) support for government membership to be considered later when budgetary support is assured.

Dr. Karim Maredia, Director, MSU & Member, AEPSA Advisory Committee in his response emphasized on the pronouncement of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug to “Take it to the Farmers” and strengthen outreach programmes accordingly by designing proper linkages of AEPSA with various R&D organizations in the region and globally. While appreciating the progress made for over the last one and half year, he proposed that (i) there should be adequate focus on membership drive covering extension professionals, agri - NGOs, R&D organizations, (ii) updating the website regularly, (iii) initiating some pilot activities under south-south collaboration (ISSCA-AEPSA) and (iv) taking urgent action on AEPSA registration as a society, opening bank account, FCRA clearance and some corpus fund. Dr. Maredia assured that MSU may provide some seed money to the proposed corpus. Further, he desired AEPSA to have partnership with CIRDAP, which has a network with 15 countries of South and South East Asia. He also suggested that AEPSA website be linked to agriculture related organizations (domestic and overseas). Additionally, Dr. Maredia desired partnership of AEPSA core/CRPs with MSU’s annual extension innovation appreciation programme (September, 2026). He also emphasized on possibilities relating to exchange of research scholars through AEPSA.

Dr. P Chandra Shekara, DG, CIRDAP proposed that : (i) initiation of corpus fund, (ii) approach agri-business companies for fund mobilization, (iii) seek CSR funds from national, international corporates, (iv) organize paid programmes in collaboration with lead institutions, (v) bring out quality e-publications, (vi) organize online training/ webinars, (vii) take-up impact assessment, evaluation studies and consultancy. (viii) update country profile bi-annually, (ix) MOU with CIRDAP and (x) take-up innovative pilots.

Dr. R.N. Padaria, Joint Director (Extn.), IARI & Country Resource Person, India in his interventions highlighted on the following: (i) documenting farm innovations (within and overseas), (ii) linkages with the innovation practitioners, (iii) working on modalities for feedback mechanism, (iv) developing capacity building modules based on extension challenges, (v) sourcing innovations from innovative farmers and (vi) reforms in profiling extension activities - developing appropriate matrix and (vii) collaboration with IARI Alumni Association(IAA).

Dr. R. R. Burman, ADG (Extension), ICAR while supporting the organizational and structural matters of AEPSA suggested to adequately focus on the following: (i) organizing sponsored and paid training programmes through lead institutions, (ii)

seeking support from international organizations like CIRDAP on MOU basis, (iii) profiling country-wise extension challenges and solutions, (iv) promoting farmer-to-farmer exchange of innovations, (v) promoting community of practitioners, (vi) taking membership on extension platforms from other countries at regional and global level, (vii) following up space allocation, registration, bank account and FCRA clearance and (viii) showcasing AEPSA activities at national and international events (e.g. Global conference on women in agriculture, March 12-14, 2026).

### **Concluding Remarks by Dr. Rajbir Singh, DDG (Ag. Extn) & Vice Chair, AEPSA**

While expressing satisfaction on the positive progress of AEPSA, the Vice Chair concluded with major action points and way forward as given below:

- Address International Institutions and Organizations, Corporates, Knowledge Partners, Professional Societies, NGOs (National/ International) and other membership categories for enrolment.
- Organize funding support and initiate establishing a corpus fund.
- Promote linkages with regional and global extension networks
- Follow-up the cross-learning possibilities matrix (CLPM) from the partner countries and identify the important areas for innovative pilots.
- Update AEPSA website regularly to make it regionally relevant, member friendly & useful to the stakeholders, especially the farmers.
- Adoption of AEPSA Annual Action Plan 2025-26 and working out budget details for 2026-27.
- Follow-up with the second phase countries for development of C-AEPs.
- Initiate efforts on Training & CB of AEPSA core & CRPs and also initiate a few models paid training programs in collaboration with lead institutes in the partner countries and global experts.
- Follow-up on the space, registration of AEPSA, opening the bank account and FCRA clearance.
- Examine the possibility of project partnerships with international agencies and CGIAR centres with focus on Asia - Africa.
- Initiate action on next annual review in April/May, 2026.

### **Vote of Thanks**

Dr. R.K. Tripathi, Coordinator (Programs & Partnerships), AEPSA expressed deep appreciation and sincere thanks to the Chair, Co-Chair and Members of AEPSA Advisory Committee and Special Invitees for their valuable contribution, thoughtful deliberations and valuable suggestions that would undoubtedly facilitate AEPSA achieve its performance to desired level. He also expressed his sincere thanks to Dr. V.V. Sadamate, Chief Coordinator & Team AEPSA for their tireless efforts in organizing second Advisory Committee meeting successfully. He expressed thanks to Dr. R.R. Burman, Dr. Padaria, Dr. Kumbhare and Mr. Svatanttra Dubey for their

direct and indirect support in organizing this meeting. He also expressed sincere thanks to Dr Bhag Mal, Secretary, TAAS and Ms. Simmi Dogra, Office Secretary for technical and back-up support provided, respectively.

**Action Taken Report on the issues/ recommendations of AEPSA  
II<sup>nd</sup> ACM**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Issue/ Recommendation</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
1	Address International Institutions and Organizations, Corporates, Knowledge Partners, Professional Societies, NGOs (National/ International) and other membership categories for enrolment.	The following have been approached for membership support & are being followed-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VCs &amp; DEs of SAUs &amp; CAUs</li> <li>- ATARIs</li> <li>- CGIAR Centres at NASC Complex</li> <li>- Seed Companies</li> <li>- Fertilizer Companies</li> <li>- ICT Companies</li> <li>- Pesticides Companies, etc.</li> </ul>
2	Organize funding support and initiate establishing a corpus fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initial supporters are being approached for the 2<sup>nd</sup> slot</li> <li>- MSU has deposited Rs 25k for the corpus seed fund</li> </ul>
3	Promote linkages with regional and global extension networks	Linkages with the following networks initiated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CIRDAP</li> <li>- ICRISAT (ISSCA)</li> </ul>
4	Follow up on the cross-learning possibilities matrix (CLPM) from the partner countries and identify the important areas for innovative pilots.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CLPM Matrix developed for India</li> <li>- Draft material received from Bhutan in Nepal Conference</li> <li>- Others are being followed-up</li> </ul>
5	Update AEPSA website regularly to make it regionally relevant, member-friendly & useful to the stakeholders, especially the farmers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Being followed-up</li> <li>- India material updated regularly</li> <li>- Others are being followed-up</li> </ul>
6	Adoption of AEPSA Annual Action Plan 2025-26 and working out budget details for 2026-27.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Receipt &amp; Expenditures for 2025-26 work-out</li> <li>- Membership fee accounted by mid-May is Rs 7.94 lakh</li> <li>- Annual action plan 2026-27 attempted</li> </ul>
7	Follow up with the second phase countries for the development of C-AEPs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft C-AEPs for 2<sup>nd</sup> phase countries attempted through specialized institutions</li> </ul>
8	Initiate efforts on Training & CB of AEPSA core & CRPs, and also initiate a few models paid training programs in collaboration with lead institutes in the partner countries and global experts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under consideration through a lead institution like MSU</li> <li>- Model Paid training programs (7) designed and shared with</li> </ul>

		concerned for comments & suggestion
9	Follow-up on the space, registration of AEPSA, opening the bank account and FCRA clearance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Registration is in progress</li> <li>- Possession is under process and will be effected soon.</li> </ul>
10	Examine the possibility of project partnerships with international agencies and CGIAR centres with a focus on Asia - Africa.	- Collaboration with ICRISAT is progressing with a joint digital extension project focused on Asia and Africa
11	Initiate action on next annual review in April/May, 2026.	- Under Consideration

**Resources Credited & Expenditure**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Balance</b>
1	Doners	27,13,280		
2	Membership	8,05,690		
3	Corpus	25,000		
	Total	35,43,970	28,67,228	6,76,742

As on Date of 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2026

**Annexure-IV (Attached separately, 35 Pages- Kind attention column - 8)**

**AEPSA - PROPOSED HRD INTERVENTIONS- TRAINING THEMES- TENTATIVE**

<b>SN (1)</b>	<b>Thematic Area (2)</b>	<b>HRD Lead (3)</b>	<b>Collaborator (4)</b>	<b>Venue (5)</b>
1	Sourcing of Extension Innovations and Success Stories promoted by Public and Private Sectors and Possibilities of Cross-Learning	Dr. RK Tripathi Coordinator P&P	Dr. RR Burman, ADG Dr. RN Padaria, JD, Extn. IARI	IARI, New Delhi
2	Piloting Digital Extension Services at the Cutting-edge Level and development institutional mechanism for scaling.	Dr. Attaluri Coordinator ICT & Networking	Dr. Sheikh Meera, Dir. ATARI Hyderabad	Hyderabad
3	Emerging Extension Innovations In Animal Husbandry, Dairy, Poultry and Fisheries Sectors	Dr. Shukla, Poultry Specialist & Dr. CS. Sahukar, Member, AEPSA Dr Arpita Sharma, Principal Scientist, CIFE, Mumbai Mr Uday, MD, Uday Aqua, HYD	DDG, Animal Sciences, ADG, Fisheries  Dr Dilip Kumar, Former Director, CIFE	NDRI (SRS), Bangalore
4	Organizing FOs for Partnerships and Enhancing their Capacity in Farmer-Led Extension Services	Dr Prashant Arimorkar, ICAR, Mr. Yogesh Thorat & Gaurav Vats, ISAP	Dr R K Tripathi, Dr.GR. Chintala, Former Chair NABARD	Mumbai
5	Promoting Farm Women and Youth for Entrepreneurial and Hitech Farming	Coordinator, AEPSA (Dr Attaluri & Dr N V Kumbhare, Principal Scientist & In-charge, ATIC,	Dr RR Burman, ADG, Ag. Extn, ICAR, Dr. Mrudula Devi, Dir. CIWA,	CIWA, Bhubaneswar

		IARI, New Delhi)	Bhubaneswar Dr. Archana Kumari, Joint Director, NGRCA, DOE, Pusa	
6	Regenerative Agriculture- Learning From the Case Studies	Coordinator, AEPSA (Dr R K Tripathi)	Sh. Shekhar Bhadsawale	Saguna Farms
7	Reorienting Extension Strategies for Addressing Climate Change Adjustments	Coordinator, AEPSA	Dr. Srinath Dixit	ICRISAT, Hyderabad

- HRD Leads to design the Training Module/Contents
- Paid Courses of 5 days duration including field visits
- Training Cost to be worked out for 15-20 participants and for each course
- Funding from National / International Sources be availed
- Collaborators/ Institutes and experts need to be firmed up in advance for hosting (Partner Countries)
- Theme and the Speakers – to be identified considering the domain expertise (Partner Countries)
- Venue can be a specialized institute in the partner countries

## AEPSA Training and Capacity Building Programs- A Model

**Course Title:** Promoting Farm Women and Youth for Entrepreneurial and Hitech Farming

**HRD LEAD-** Dr N V Kumbhare, Principal Scientist & In-charge, ATIC, IARI, New Delhi

**Collaborator-** Dr R R Burman, ADG, Ag. Extn, ICAR, Dr Mridula Devi, Director CIWA, Bhubaneswar, Dr. Archana Kumari, Joint Director, NGRCA, DOE, Pusa

**Expected number of participants** – 25 (15 local, 10 foreigners)

### Funding Requirements

1. Travel (to & fro) – 5000x15 (local) plus 30000x10 (overseas) = **3,75,000**
2. Coordinator (2 – AEPSA Sectt. and Local plus 4 resource persons) (2x30000 overseas plus 4x5000 local) – **80,000**
3. Accommodation (participants plus resource persons)– 7daysx31x3000 = **6,51,000**
4. Local travels – **1,32,000** (@ 2000 per head plus 2 hired vehicles @ 10000 per dayx7 day)
5. Venue – **1,00,000**
6. Training Programme Facilitation (Backdrop, Banners, indicators, connectivity, presentation, mementoes, Bouquets, badges, etc.) – **1,50,000**
7. Boarding (Food) – Breakfast, tea/high tea, Lunch, Dinner – 1500x31x7 = **3,25,500**
8. Training Material – Bags, Printed material, pen drive, pen, pad, etc. – **31,000**
9. Coordinator Remuneration – @ 5000 per dayx2x7days = **70,000**
10. Speaker Honorarium – 4x5000x4 days = **80,000**
11. Field Visit (one day) – travel plus light refreshments, etc. – **30,000**
12. Inaugural/Closing function – **10,000**

**Sub Total – 20,34,500**

13. Other Administrative expenses including contingencies (5% of total) – **1,01,725**

**Total – 21,36,225**

14. Institutional Cost for AEPSA (10% of Total) – **2,13,623**

**Grand Total – 23,49,848**

### Source of Funding

Sl. No.	Source of funding	Amount INR
1	Provincial Government Schemes	<b>1,50,000</b>
2	Federal Governments Schemes	<b>2,50,000</b>
3	International Institutions /Organizations	<b>8,00,000</b>
4	National Institutions/Organization	<b>5,00,000</b>
5	Companies and Corporates	<b>5,50,000</b>
6	Course Fee @ 10000 per participant	<b>2,50,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25,00,000</b>

### AEPSA Annual Work Plans (AWP) 2026-27

The Annual Work Plan FY 2026-27 is primarily centred around accelerating the programmatic interventions in the partner countries, providing core manpower support, refining C-AEPs (2nd Phase Countries), working out cross-learning possibilities and initiating innovating pilots, arranging model HRD programs for AEPSA core team & extension professionals in the partner countries, upgrading the office space, website management, inter country programs and travel, etc.

#### Tentative Financial Requirement for (2026-27):

Sl. No.	2025-26 Actual Rs in Lakh		Item/Components (2026-27)	Funding Requirement (2026-27) Rs in Lakh Opening balance (7,19,017)
	Receipt	Expenditure		
1			Secretariat Manpower (Contractual)	
			(i) Chief Coordinator	4.8
			(ii) Coordinator (Program & Partnership)	2.4
			(iii) Coordinator ICT & Networking	2.4
			(iv) Tech. Support-1	4.8
			(v) Tech. Support-2	4.8
		(vi) Support Staff (Office secretary, Accountant)	2.00	
3			(i) Renovation, Furniture, Fitting of office space	3.00
			(ii) Computer, Printer, Connectivity, etc	2.00

4			Printing & Publications, including (Country Agricultural Extension Profile) C-AEPs	2.00
5			Websites (Updating & Maintenance)	0.5
6			Innovative Paid Training Program	1.00 (initial support)
7			Pilot Project (in Field)	1.00 (initial support)
8			Country-specific & Joint Workshop/Meeting	1.00 (initial support)
9			Overseas need-based Travel	1.00
10			Miscellaneous (Stationary, Pantry, etc)	1.00
11			One-Time Funding Support (Ref. Letter from Chairman AEPSA for Annual Fee)	
	<b>27,50,934</b>	<b>20,85,676 Balance- 6,65,258</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>33.70 (- Opening balance) (6,65,258) Net Requirement- 27.05 lakh</b>