

# GFRAS' COUNTRY FORA STRATEGY



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# WHY IS THE COUNTRY FORA (CF) IMPORTANT FOR GFRAS?



In its quest for improved delivery of rural advisory services, GFRAS is strongly focused on strengthening the delivery capacity of service providers at the country level, since this “last mile” of service provision is the most critical (and costly).

# WHY IS THE COUNTRY FORA (CF) IMPORTANT FOR GFRAS?

Gateway for partners

Bringing to scale



# WHAT IS A COUNTRY FORA?

- Network that brings together a wide range of RAS-related actors;
- Provides actors with mechanisms for information exchange and lessons sharing;
- Facilitates the identification of opportunities for actors to provide services to each other;
- Fosters innovation and better RAS service provision in their respective domains;
- Eventually, should provide leadership to the overall development of RAS in a country;



Variety of representation

Fair and transparent  
representation

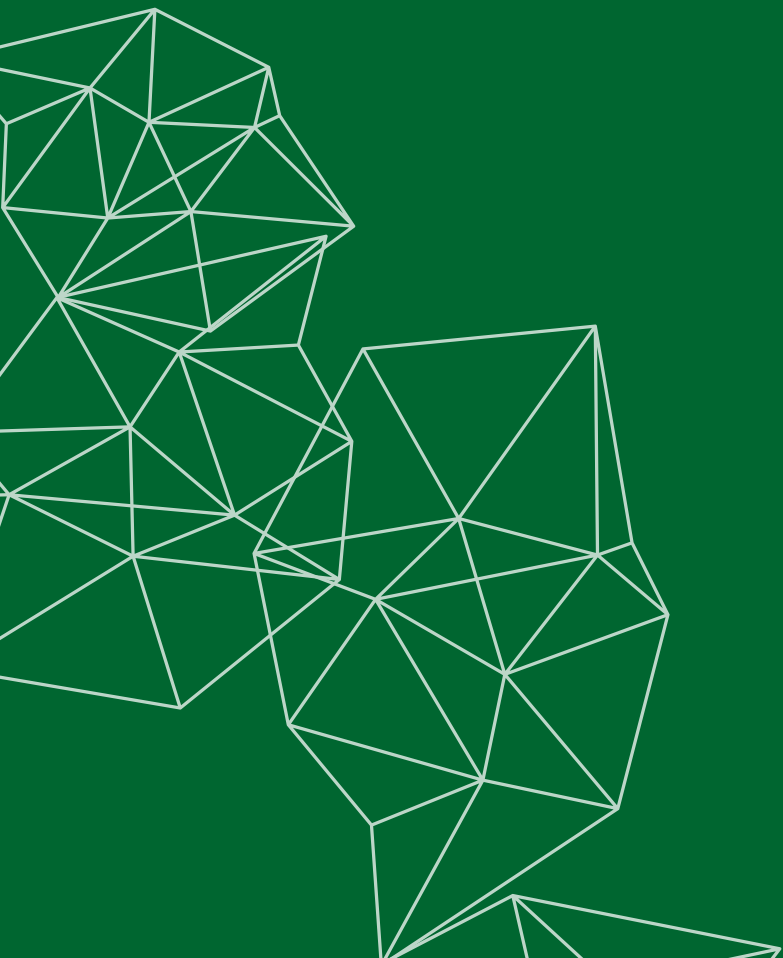
# WHAT IS A COUNTRY FORA?

Reminder:

Within the GFRAS structure the Regional Networks (RN) support agricultural sector stakeholders at country level in setting up and strengthening the Country Fora, stimulate exchange between Country Fora and tackle critical issues at regional level or push them to global level if needed.



Support the  
Regional Networks



# HOW TO ESTABLISH A COUNTRY FORA?

- Although informal interactions and collaboration between RAS related stakeholders may have existed for a long time, the idea of establishing a platform as a formal organisational entity has gained ground since a couple of years. Hence, in many countries the CF is still at a starting point where the first enthusiastic people coming together and strive to evolve into a nationally or regionally entity. This process of how the CF will grow towards an independent organisation can be reflected in a development trajectory to maturity.



Photo: KEFAAS

# HOW TO STRENGTHEN A COUNTRY FORA?

Development trajectory  
of Kotter - 8 stages,  
consecutively followed

Maturity Matrix - 6 internal  
organizational aspects, 4  
correlational institutional  
aspects

GFRAS' combination  
approach



# HOW TO STRENGTHEN A COUNTRY FORA?

- Constitution and registration
- Governance
- Representation in Board
- Membership diversity
- Strategic plan
- Secretariat and management team
- Activity level
- Visibility
- Recognition, lobby, and advocacy
- Financial sustainability



# GFRAS' CF COMMITMENTS UNTIL 2025

- Number (n) of countries with active RAS Country Fora
- Number (n) of CF at maturity stage 3
- Number (n) of CF generating income to operate a secretariat
- Average number (n) of CF having private sector stakeholders among its members
- Number (n) of CF and Country Chapters with active youth and gender policy
- Number (n) of Country Chapters with nationally funded activities



# GFRAS' CF COMMITMENTS

## UNTIL 2025

- Number (n) of revised agricultural related policies that promote pluralistic demand-driven RAS, and/or (women and) youth engagement being passed in targeted countries (selected countries: n = 10)
- Trends of government & private investments in RAS (selected countries: n = 10)
- Number (n) of Country Fora where (xx% of the affiliated) RAS providers integrate (gender and youth sensitive) E-Extension in their service offer
- Number (n) of countries demonstrating training and education standards for RAS providers, based on GFRAS principles of demand-driven, youth and gender sensitive approach

# GFRAS INITIATIVES 2023

- **Global Programme for Small-scale Agroecology Producers and Sustainable Food Systems Transformation (GP-SAEP)**

- GFRAS receives EUR 4.5 millions of the EU funding
- Increasing access to knowledge and empowering small-scale producers in agroecological transition through Rural Advisory Services (RAS) and farmer-to-farmer joint learning;

## **Strengthen Agroecology RAS**

The component will support RAS providers (including public agricultural extension, CSOs, FOs, agroecology-based MSME input providers) in shifting from conventional linear and sometimes 'quick-fixe' technology transfer approaches towards co-creation and participatory and experiential learning approaches that recognize farmers as drivers of agroecological innovation in integrated practices and technologies.

## **Generate and disseminate knowledge on best practices**

The effectiveness of capacity building activities and approaches to strengthen Agroecology RAS supply will be iteratively analysed through action research approaches to identify constraints, enablers and best practices

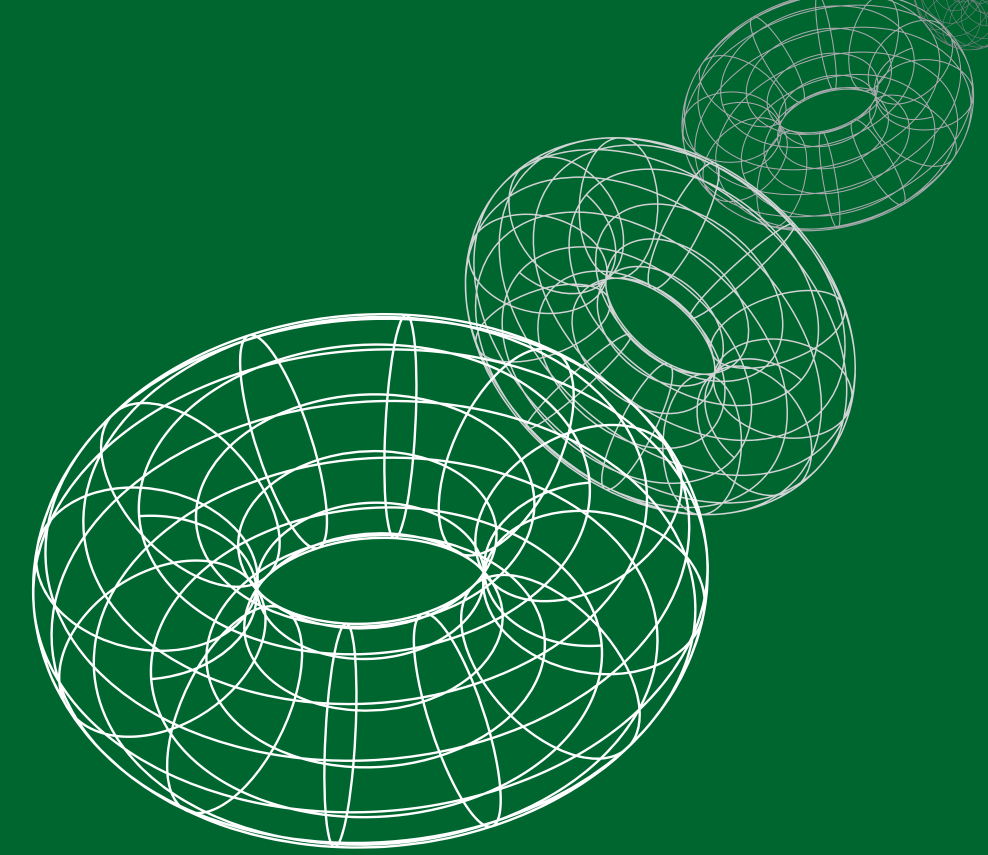
- **Digital RAS**



- **Nutrition Working Group**

- Improving the quality of the evidence that justifies investment in this area. Specific topics like institutional articulation; characteristics of food systems; extension methodologies; cultural aspects; role of women and youth, are relevant to make progress in a better nutrition for the future.

# THANK YOU



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