



RAS for Youth - Youth in RAS

Natalie Ernst, Programme Officer

Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services

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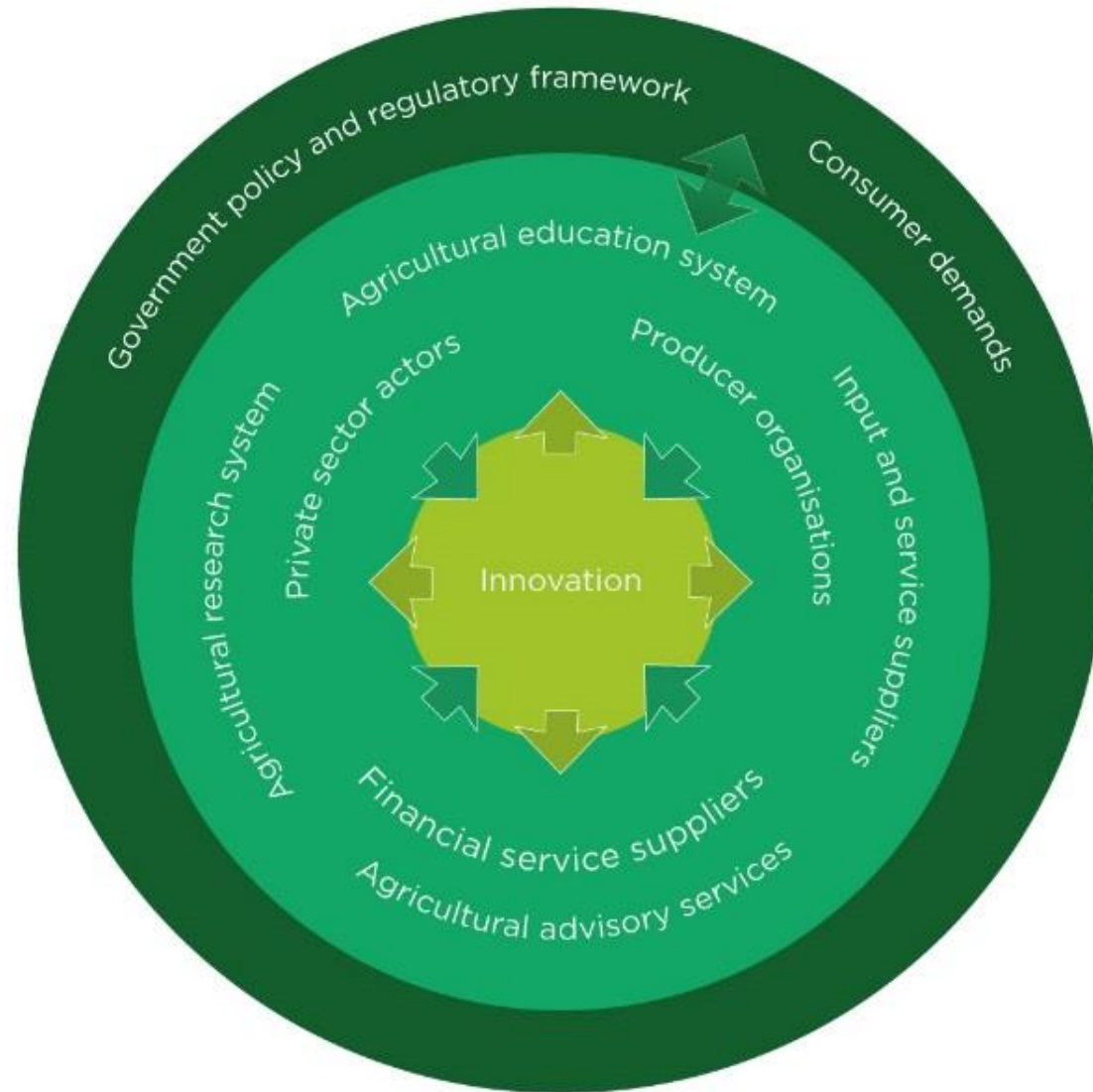
What ARE Rural Advisory Services?



How are you involved with RAS?



Agricultural Innovation System



Rural Advisory Services are...

...all the different **activities** that provide the **information and services needed and demanded** by farmers and **other actors** in rural settings. Rural advisory services assist them in **developing their own technical, organisational, and management skills and practices**, to **improve their livelihoods and well-being**

Are we expecting new superheroes?!?



The New Extensionist

- Change of mind-set, from technology-transfer to brokers in wide and complex systems
- Various actors in the AIS
- Pluralistic RAS systems
- RAS clearly **articulating and reinventing its expanded role** within agricultural innovation systems
- Goes beyond strengthening individual skills and capacities and includes strengthening capacities of organisations and systems



What is GFRAS

"GFRAS is a collective voice for all the networks that are globally championing RAS."

"The more we develop, in every country, agriculture has a different, unique personality and there has to be somebody to guide the whole thing, like a maestro so I think that GFRAS is like the maestro for me, for all that happening."

"GFRAS really means to me connecting, meeting rural people around the globe that I can now be able to reach out to with regards to rural advisory services and extension."



Why GFRAS?

RAS is key to rural development, but...

- Limited voice at global level
- Lack of evidence-based advice on policies, approaches, investment options
- Limited experience-sharing at local, regional level
- Lack of individual, organisational, institutional capacities



GFRAS Mission

Provide advocacy and leadership on pluralistic and demand-driven rural advisory services for sustainable development

GFRAS Vision

RAS to effectively contribute to sustainable development



GFRAS strategic fields of action

Strategic field 1: Advocacy and support for an enabling policy environment and appropriate investment in rural advisory services

Strategic field 2: Professionalisation of rural advisory services

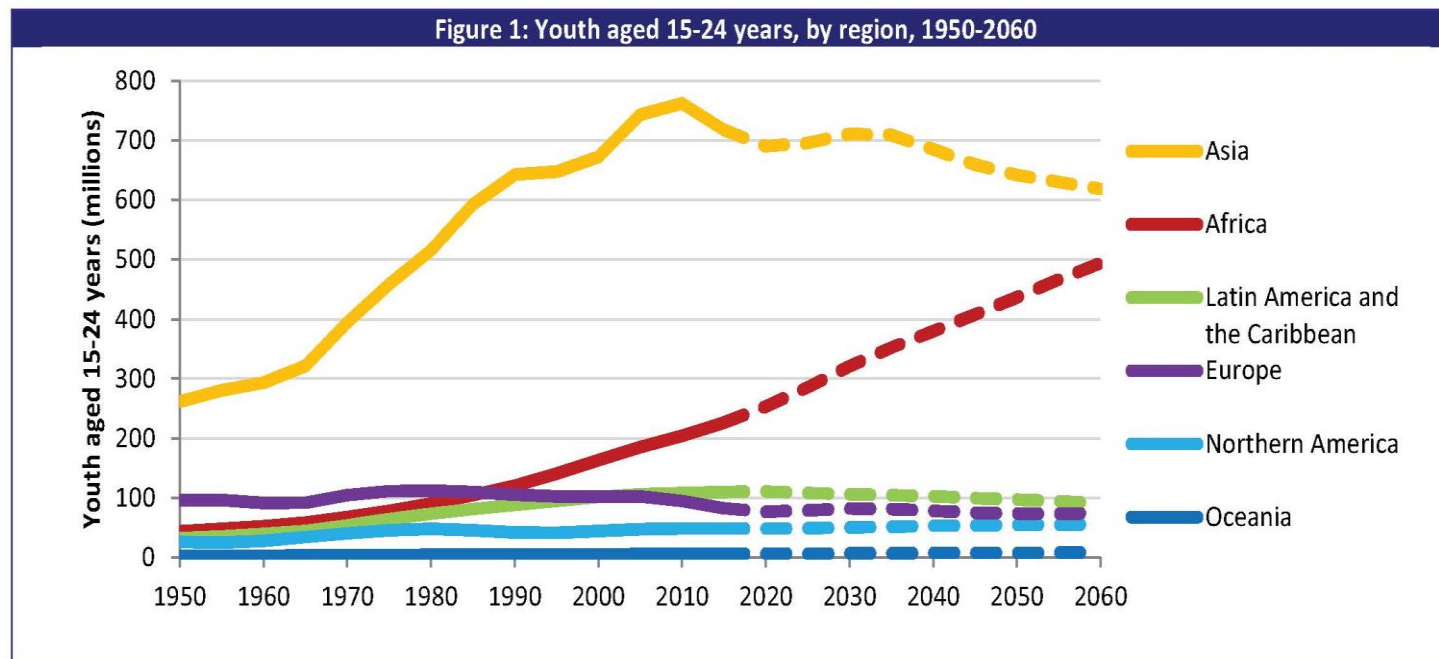
Strategic field 3: Facilitation and enhancement of effective and continuous knowledge generation and exchange

Where do Youth come in here?



Some statistics

- Global youth population - 1.3 billion in 2050
- Majority in developing countries in Africa, Asia
- Estimated 55% in rural areas
- Conditions of un-/underemployment and poverty



FAO/CTA/IFAD, 2014

Background challenges



- Key for achieving the SDGs
- Lack of access of land, finances, employment, education, training, recognition, opportunities, etc.
- Disengaging perception of agriculture by youth
- Youth is a heterogeneous group: addressing youth is addressing gender; age and intergenerational processes; community values and habits; family processes!
- Disconnection between the training provided by RAS and the training needed by youth
- Politics, policies, projects and programmes are often driven by bias and not by evidence
- Underinvestment in extension and knowledge sharing in many parts of the world

BUT...

- Higher incomes
- Improved education
- Urbanisation
- Better connectivity and infrastructure
- Spread of ICTs
- Changing mobility
- Changing and increasing patterns of demand for food

→ new opportunities for skilled, remunerative work in agri-food systems



Agriculture is not just farming

PERFECT opportunities along the whole value chain in:

Policies

Education

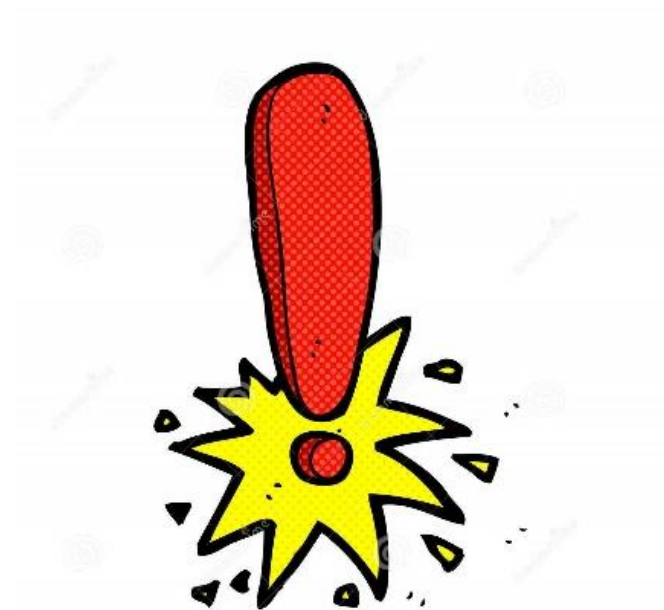
Research

Farming and Finances

Extension and RAS

Communications and

Technology/Trade



RAS for Youth

- Linking with young people's aspirations
- Help dealing with macro-level environment in which young people live and work
- Facilitate service provision – educational, financial, commercial, communication
- Fostering young people's participation in shaping agricultural and rural development:
- Ensuring young women benefit from rural advisory services
- Education and training for young people in relevant professions (including internships, vocational trainings, etc.)

→ Work **WITH** youth, not **FOR** youth

Youth in RAS

- RAS provided often not responding to demands of youth
- RAS often lacks capacities to work with youth
- Opportunities for youth involvement in RAS!!

→ Youth reach Youth





Youth and GFRAS

- Youth Issues Paper
- GFRAS Annual Meeting 2017 in Australia
- Creation of Youth Working Group



GFRAS YouthinRAS Working Group

- Platform for exchanging experiences, challenges, and knowledge of, by and for youth
- Create entry points and opportunities for youth engagement within RAS networks and providers
- Improve capacities and competencies of youth to react to challenges
- Advocate for holistic measures at policy, institutional and investment level to address barriers to engaging youth in agriculture
- → Youth representation in the GFRAS SC

**If you don't manage the change,
change will manage you..**

Are you ready????



Thank you

Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services

c/o Agridea

Jordils 1

1001 Lausanne

Switzerland

Tel. 0041-(0)52 354 97 64

info@g-fras.org

www.g-fras.org

