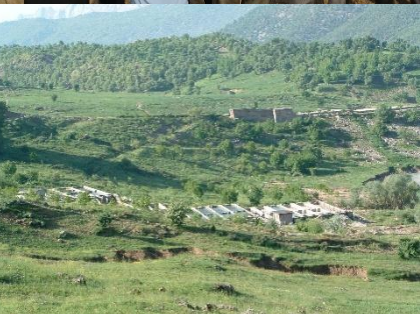




Third Announcement



ORGANIZERS

Iranian Agricultural Extension and Education Association (IAEEA)

University of Zanjan

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

- Agriculture Bank of Iran
- Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS)
- Asia and Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services (APIRAS)
- World Rural Forum (WRF)
- World Agricultural Heritage Foundation (WAHF)
- Access Agriculture
- African Forum Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS)
- Ganja Agribusiness Association (GABA)
- Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology
- University of Wageningen
- University of Tehran
- University of Tabriz
- Iranian Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture
- Iranian Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare
- Regional Water Cooperation

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CALL FOR ABSTRACT

The First International Conference of the Asia and Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services (APIRAS) & the 5th Congress of Extension and Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management

2-4 September, 2014, University of Zanjan, Iran



**FACILITATING
INFORMATION AND
INNOVATIONS FOR
EMPOWERING FAMILY
FARMERS**



**2014
IAEEA-APIRAS
International
Conference**

To learn more about the conference, submission of abstracts, programme, the accommodation and registration please visit our website: <http://iaeea2014.znu.ac.ir>

Address:

Department of Agricultural Extension, Communication and Rural Development
University of Zanjan, University Blvd., Zanjan, Post code: 45371-38111, Iran





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BACKGROUND

Rural households, particularly small scale farmers, in the world face complex challenges such as environmental crises, food insecurity, rural livelihood insecurity, hunger and poverty. The United Nations at its 66th session of the General Assembly has declared the year 2014 as the **International Year of Family Farming (IYFF)** to invite the collaboration of different international and national institutions as well as farmers' organizations and non-governmental organizations to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farming. This requires a wide range of discussion and collaborations at the national, regional and global levels to cope with these challenges. Among different strategies to support family farmers, agricultural and extension education and rural advisory services have tried to facilitate and network innovations for and among these farmers as well as to build their social capacities in order to enhance their livelihoods, increase food security and conserve natural resources. The majority of farmers in the developing world produce in small scale family farms either individually, through partnership or collectively. They are much more vulnerable to the mentioned challenges above than any other types of farming and they need the much more support of agricultural extension and rural advisory services. The theme of this conference has been defined to be **"Facilitating Information and Innovations for Empowering Family Farmers"**.

SUBMISSION OF CONTRIBUTIONS

This international conference can provide an opportunity for the participants to share their knowledge and experiences regarding rural development and extension approaches to support family farmers in order to manage their challenges. Researchers, students, farmers' advisors/ extension agents and other practitioners are invited to submit their proposals relating to the topics of the conference theme and present their abstracts and papers based on their case studies and theoretical, philosophical, methodological or application focused studies. Contributions are invited from all geographical areas and field work is not limited to Asia and Pacific Islands.

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of Abstracts: 19th April 2014

Notification of Authors: 5th May 2014

Submission of Full Papers: 21st May 2014

Notification of Paper Acceptance: 21st June 2014



AIMS

- To promote dialogue and exchange of practical and theoretical experiences on the situation of extension and education and RASs systems related to food security, sustainability of family farmers' livelihoods and sustainable natural resources management
- To enhance the status and role of extension education and RASs systems for empowering farmers and producer organizations
- Sharing lessons and successful experiences of the role of producer organizations, private sector, NGOs and government in extension education and RASs systems, particularly for providing services to family farmers
- To provide advocacy for taking the attention of policy makers, managers, and scholars to redefine the status of family farming in agricultural development main policies

TRACKS

1. Agricultural extension and RASs systems in food security and sustainability of family farmers' livelihoods
2. Communication, knowledge, information and innovation systems in agricultural and rural development
3. Structural and functional transformation of agricultural extension and RASs institutions worldwide in a pluralistic context
4. Organizational and human resources development in agricultural extension and RASs institutions
5. Agricultural education systems: changes, challenges and new missions
6. Agricultural extension and RASs in sustainable natural resources management
7. Agricultural extension and RASs in strengthening and developing cooperatives and producer organizations



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