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# The Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS)

## Global, Regional, and Country Structures and Topics

Presented to the SASAE Board, 23 September 2016, Pretoria



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# Overview

- New Strategic Framework 2016-2025
- GFRAS secretariat, regional networks, country fora
- GFRAS working groups and initiatives
- GFRAS and SASAE





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# **GFRAS 10-Year Strategic Framework 2016-2025**

**Advocacy and Leadership in Rural  
Advisory Services for Sustainable  
Development**



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# We focus on capacity strengthening in this strategic period: 3 levels

Policy  
Environment

Organisational

Individual

Adapted from FAO (2010)



# Strategic Fields of Action

1. Advocacy and support for an enabling policy environment and appropriate investment in rural advisory services
2. Professionalisation of rural advisory services
3. Facilitation and enhancement of effective and continuous knowledge generation and exchange



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# Professionalisation of Rural Advisory Services

**Main goal:**  
Strengthened  
**performance** of  
rural advisory  
services



Source: SG 2000



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# Key Activities 2016-2017

- Test New Extensionist Learning Kit
- Professionalisation study follow up
- Gender in value chains & RAS study
- Global good practice notes  
([www.betterextension.org](http://www.betterextension.org))
- Capacity needs assessments of networks and fora
- Annual meetings 2016, 2017
- AFAAS Africa-Wide Extension Week, 2017

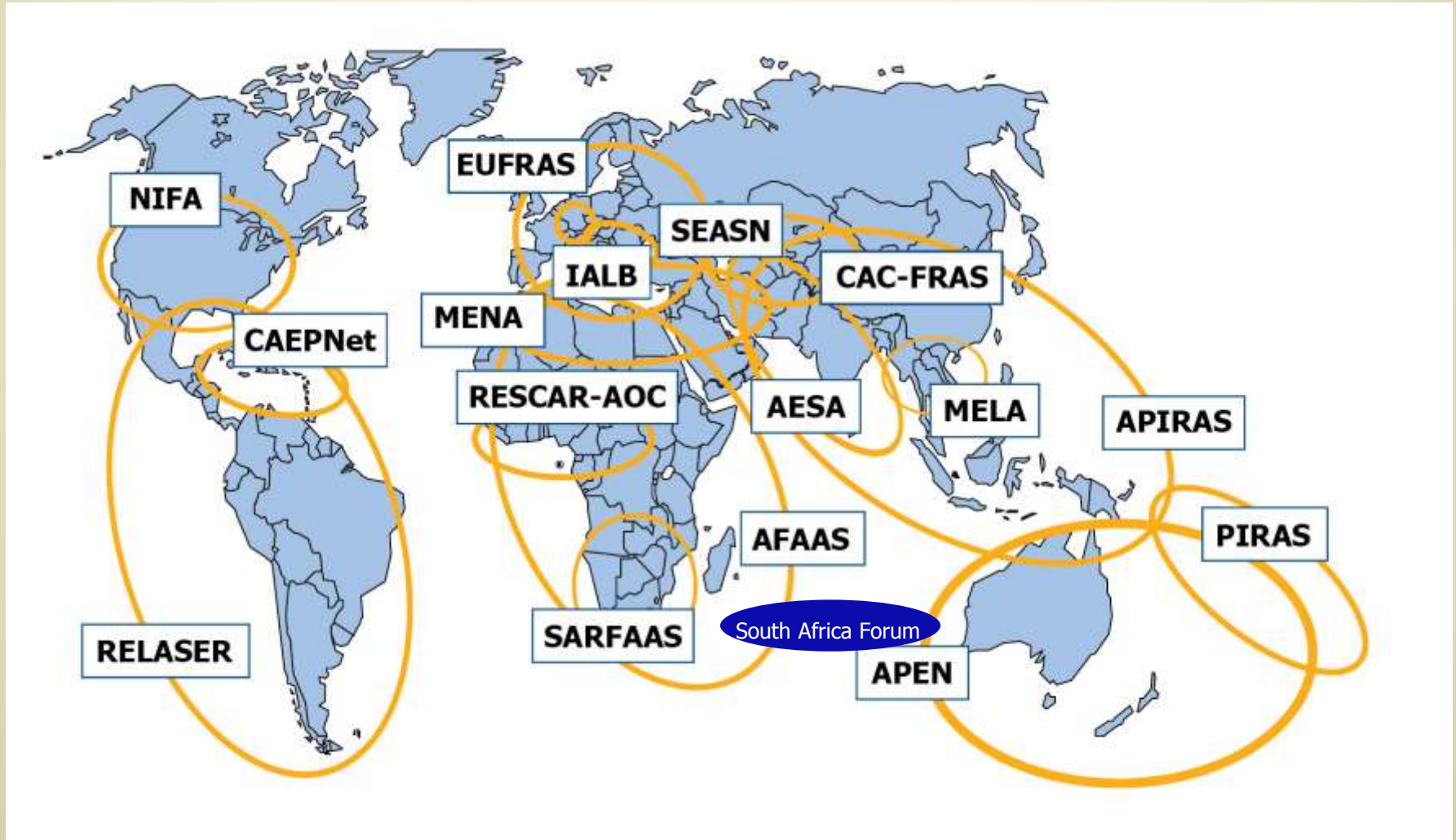




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# Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services







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# Regional Networks

- 14 regional networks
- 30+ country fora
- <http://www.g-fras.org/en/community/members.html>





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# Working Groups

- Policy for extension and rural advisory services
- Evaluation
- Gender equality
- ICT4RAS interest group
- Nutrition?
- <http://www.g-fras.org/en/community/working-groups.html>



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# Initiatives

- Global good practices ([www.betterextension.org](http://www.betterextension.org))
- The New Extensionist
- Consortium on Extension Education and Training
- Producer organisations in RAS





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# New Extensionist Learning Kit



# Examples of competencies at individual level

## Core competencies for Individuals & Modules

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Introduction to the New Extensionist         | 8. Community Mobilisation   |
| 2. Extension Approaches and Tools               | 9. Farmer Organisational Development                                  |
| 3. Agricultural Extension Programme Management  | 10. The Role of Extension in Value Chains                             |
| 4. Professional Ethics                          | 11. Agricultural Entrepreneurship                                     |
| 5. Adult Learning for Behavioural Change        | 12. Gender in Extension and Advisory Services                         |
| 6. Basic Knowledge Management and Extension     | 13. Risk Management and Adaptation in Extension and Advisory Services |
| 7. Introduction to Facilitation for Development |   |





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# Progress made so far- development of the NE learning kit

- 5 modules are expected to be completed by September 2016
- 8 remaining modules will be ready by February 2017







# Targeted learners include

- Current and incoming **students** in agriculture and extension (and related fields)
- Animal and crop science **degree holders** – with not training in extension
- **Extension professionals** (upgrade their skills or gain new knowledge)
- **Others** (increase their competencies)





# The aim of the learning kit

- Ultimately, the material will be accessible on line
- It can be downloaded and used for face-to-face or blended learning (a combination of self-directed and face-to-face learning)
- To help to top up the knowledge of existing professionals
- To be taken up by learning institutions for foundational course material for certificates or degrees



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# SASAE Involvement

- Annual Meetings
- Contributions to Global Good Practices
- AFAAS Extension Week
- New Extensionist Learning Kit
- Support to professionalisation



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**Thank you**