

EB Courier
December 2020 -
February 2021



IAAS Vision Statement

“To promote **the exchange of experience, knowledge and ideas**, and to improve the **mutual understanding** between students in the field of agricultural and related sciences all over the world.”



IAAS Headquarters

Updates from IAAS President



OMAR FARHATE

president@iaasworld.org

Hello FamillIAAS!

We are right in the middle of our term already, time goes so fast! All I can say is that it is an amazing journey so far, I'll be telling you in this letter a little bit what I have been up to from December to February, of course it is hard to write everything, that's why if you have any more questions or concerns, feel free to contact me!

The 4 Vice-Presidents and I have been continuously working for our organization and striving for excellence, we have been working as a core group, as a real team even if we have never met physically yet.

From December to February, many scientific events from our local and national committees took place, so I was supporting them in organizing these events.

I was involved in the initiation of 4 VCPs (Village Concept Projects) in Nepal and Morocco. At the moment, I am motivating other committees to take the lead and initiate new ones. If your members are interested in supporting local communities in rural areas, you can reach me out!

In January, we organized one of our biggest events ever, the Youth in Agriculture Pre-event to the Climate Adaptation Summit, we had over 1500 application from over 115 countries, we created our second policy document this year: the Youth Climate Smart Agriculture Call to Action, you can find it in our website! I truly thank all the OC especially Nina Stoop for leading the project! The event generated so many unexpected outcomes for IAAS, and we are therefore meeting the Global Center on Adaptation in March!

In the first weekend of February, we held our second Strategic Meeting where we had trainings with our ITC trainers Nina, Kyrill and Anna and created our activity plan with Lyda and Kyrill which you can find in this document.

A bit later, I moved to the Netherlands for my thesis, and now I am almost 2 hours away from the IAAS Headquarters in Leuven, Belgium!

December-February is usually the period when the Directors Meetings of the regions take place. This year it's been a challenge since it's the first time ever they are organized online. Still, we managed to organize them for 3 regions already. I was mainly the coordination point between the OC and EB. I truly thank all the regional boards for their work, especially the Regional Directors

Updates from IAAS President



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president@iaasworld.org

(Salvatore, Rifa, Natalia, Oumaima and Karl) all have been collaborative and responsive! The EB and I are looking forward to working with all the next regional leaders!

In the next months, I will be focusing on the Village Concept Projects, the next edition of the scientific events with the help of the projects and events coordinators. I will continue to lead the EB, continue updating the members with these EB couriers. I will continue representing IAAS with external stakeholders and support our member countries!

I look forward to meeting all of you in person!

Best regards,

Omar Farhate
IAAS World President 2020/21

Updates from IAAS VP of Exchange



EDUARDO HERRERA

vpexchange@iaasworld.org

A warm greeting from the middle of the world my dear FamiliIAAS.

It is a pleasure again to give you my work progress over the last two months; personally I have had new responsibilities in my life (outside of IAAS) that have consumed my time but have taught me how to handle my activities in the best way, make the most of time (because time is jaja gold) and manage my energy. Honestly these two months of work have been very productive and you will see the results soon. Now that I have formed my team (QB), we have set this time to have arduous planning and subsequent project execution. So here's what we've got, we're and we'll be doing these days:

During the regional's Directors Meetings (DM) I will be intended within one to two hours to explain our Exchange Program, our offer around the world on all new places (and possible new locations) as well as the use of the new IAAS web platform focusing on applicants from the creation of a new personal account to the application to an ExPro. I've been working very closely with every Regional Exchange Coordinator from all 5 IAAS regions. So I'll see you soon!

As you know we have a new IAAS online platform in which only three IAAS positions will have

accounts as administrators they will be: Regional Exchange Coordinators (RExCos), National Exchange Coordinators (NExCos) and National Directors (ND). With the help of my database officer (Léna Garino from IAAS France), we have created the official accounts for each of them after that we have informed everyone by means of an email (if you do not have access yet please check your official IAAS emails) and some by means of a message on WhatsApp.

In these accounts as administrators you will have the possibility to:

- Update all country-specific information
- Update ExPro places
- See all the students from Ecuador who have registered on the website
- Download private and useful documents

And most importantly, they will be able to handle each application to an ExPro by this means

To finish with the help of my database officer again (who has been aware of the creation of the platform for more than a year) we will create a Google Classroom where they will be taught in 4 modules the full use of the platform as administrators (destined for RExCos, NExCos and ND) but in the end all IAAS members will have access so that they can learn as well.

Updates from IAAS VP of Exchange



EDUARDO HERRERA

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With the help of Marie – the current vice-president of External Relations we are working on a great idea, getting universities/laboratories/research institutes around the world to make an agreement with IAAS for two things: join our Study Aboard Program and our Exchange Program. Right now we're developing an action plan and then executing it. Of course we will need the help of each national committee.

By the end of March we will be developing The Organic Agriculture International Conference a scientific IAAS event with the support of the NExCos (at least one person from each region). This event will be focused on looking for speakers from various parts of the world but above all from companies/farms/universities where we want to arrive and get them to meet our ExPro offer. You'll have more information ahead of you.

During this event, promotional videos from each region that have also been coordinated by RExCos will be released with the help of the NExCos.

By the beginning of April we will be conducting the Global gathering with all NExCos around the world to have a space to talk about our ExPro program, we will give trainings from my QB and most importantly talk about the current situation of exchanges in the world (problems and solutions).

I have started to personally contact the National Exchange Coordinators (NExCo) of each of the more than 50 countries where IAAS exists to be more connected in the work to be carried out and they are aware of the activities so also each region has its own WhatsApp group where all the NExCos are. You always go further if you work together. You can also contact us directly for assistance in the activities you do with both EB/CB and ITC.

Finally now I feel that IAAS is changing for the better all my life and being on an international committee I have learned effective organizational techniques that serves me in my professional life as well.

Carpe Diem,
Eduardo Herrera

Updates from IAAS VP of Finance



KAMRIAR TORABI

vpfinance@iaasworld.org

A good day my dear FamillIAAS

A lot of things have happened the last three months. There was not only a new year and an exam period for me, but as well a lot of work for IAAS. Believe me, the work and opportunities to improve and learn are not getting less.

To summarise my work the last two months, I can say the most of my time went to coordinating my Quality Board. All of the Quality Board applicants are really motivated, so this is an amazing opportunity to make some big changes. I must say, until now they have already done a great job and some real progress was already made. So what are we actually really doing these days?

We are writing the 'Finance Standard'. This is a guide that explains everything about how to make your IAAS committee stable, in a financial and organisational way. Only in this way, you will be able to achieve great things. Normally, the final draft should be the beginning of March.

We already supported you by spreading a Merchandise Guideline and giving you some merchandise designs. In this way, your committee will be able to make publicity for IAAS and make money in the same time. The updated final version (with a nice lay-out) should be finished soon.

Make yourself ready for IAAS solidarity with a Development Fund day at 21 March 2021! We already had an info session about it, but more info will come soon. The more countries that participate, the better. Each participating country gets a reduction of €10 on the MF if they donate at least €20. The country that donates the most gets another reduction of €10.

Lastly, we will help you directly in making money to organise events and projects, and to pay the annual Membership Fee. We will do this by having meetings and helping you in making a fundraiser event. If this is successful, your country can even get a reduction on the membership Fee!

Now, there were also some other things I have been doing. First of all, I prepared a workshop about getting the right mentality and skills for making a financially stable committee. You will are/were able to follow this workshop in your region's Directors Meeting (DM).

Updates from IAAS VP of Finance



KAMIAR TORABI

vpfinance@iaasworld.org

Additionally, we also launched something totally new: The IAAS Global Projects Contest. This is a call for action directly to you guys. The idea is to activate IAAS again worldwide to create more impact by organising Projects and to do something good for yourself and your community. All committees can apply for this, by sending me the filled concept note (check your email). All participants can ask for advice from our part. You just have to contact us or apply for the workshop that will be given by IAAS Training Committee (ITC) about Project Planning. The three best projects will win prizes up to €1000!

To end this letter, I want to give you some advice that you can use when planning a project or for anything else in your life: Do not be a perfectionist when organising a project (or anything else). Just Do your best and let it be good enough. Convince yourself that you definitely want to generate funds for your committee. Dare to think big, because you have an amazing potential in IAAS. You won't regret it, believe me.

Do not wait for others to help you, but take initiative, search for information and ideas and ask for advice (to the Executive Board (EB) or IAAS Training Committee (ITC) for example). Just start with any ideas, knowledge and skills you already have. Do this even if you think you will fail, because there is no way you can expect to be good at something the first time you do it. This is why it is good to fail: you will learn the most and before you know, you are a real business man!

Peace and Love,

Kamiar

Updates from IAAS VP of Communication



FESTUS S. YOSAFAT

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Hello FamiliIAAS!

Greetings from all of us, the Communication Team
Gen 2021!

Another month, another new responsibility, another new challenge, and also, a new family! That's how I can say about my December and January. Filled with chaotic schedules, but at the same time, it was fun! Thanks to everyone in IAAS who have been working together with me. Although, all of my schedules were messed up because of too many priorities to do. But at least, I am making progress as your VPC.

Heads up from Communication Team that we're now working on some new improvements including the Social Media Communication. Now, me and my team still working on how we can improve and also helping every country in utilizing their IAAS Social Media. That's why our Communication Academy got delayed a bit because we wanted to make some new improvements, which could make it easier to be implemented by every country members in IAAS. Alongside with this Communication Academy Project, here are what I have done in the previous months:

- Enhancing our Social media workflow and communication system.
- Helping other EBs by having synergy working with them to progress their innovations.

We're activating Humans of IAAS now! If you have time to express yourself and wanted to motivate IAAS members, share your story now! :D Working with lots of publications including Bi-Monthly Newsletters.

Helping the Youth CAS 2021 in promotional activities, and other Scientific Events. More working space with my QB! We did lots of working space to ensure that we make progress toward our main project, and also our working routines in Communication field.

At the moment, I am preparing my workshop for DMs about Social Media Management, which also the part of Communication Academy. Today's Social Media is a very crucial tool not just to showcase our IAAS brand, but to showcase our purposes as we live in this association. When everything became virtual, there's no other reason why we should be able to adapt and able to engage people across the globe. That's why I would like to invite everyone in IAAS to keep active and fulfilling our vision as a promise for the world virtually. You can make a big impact even though it's just on virtual. I will see you all during the DMs! Festus will come to you soon!

TetapSemangat! (Keep on Fire!)
From your Iron Man!

Updates from IAAS VP of Finance



MARIE-AGNES FINE

vppartnership@iaasworld.org

Dear IAAS members,

I am happy to share with you a few updates regarding external relations. Indeed, the first months of my term have been dedicated to the establishing action plans regarding 3 main goals.

The first goal, meant to attract sponsors and partners, is to organize the ICYA 2021. The ICYA will be hosted online by a Moroccan company called Webevents App (you can check their website here: <http://webevents-app.com/en>) for 6587,95€. This company is going to provide us with an online fair with a virtual entrance hall leading to an exhibitor's hall where companies and universities will be able to have stands to present themselves, their programs, their job/internship opportunities, their products and a conference hall for speakers to present their work. I will share with you more details about the way how the ICYA is going to be held in further communication especially, the fundraising, the partners and sponsors who will take part in it and the speakers.

The online platform should be ready by mid-March at the latest. The ICYA itself will take place from May, 13th to May, 16th on the topic of resilience of biological systems. The two first days will be meant for exhibitors and conferences while the two last days will be dedicated to trainings and workshops to call for action and position IAAS members as leaders with a voice.

The second goal is to work in synergy with the VP of Finance to implement a fundraising strategy able to improve the financial situation of IAAS from the bottom to the top and back. Indeed, the fundraising action plan has been elaborated in 3 steps: planning future investments, gaining sustainable sponsors and sharing knowledge with all the members. To fulfil this plan, so far, the IAAS Global Projects Contest has been created as well as a workshop about fundraising which will be provided in each Directors' Meeting. You'll find enclose to this letter the rules of the contest and the procedure to apply.

The third goal is to cooperate with the VP of Exchange to launch a campaign targeting universities to create a network of IAAS universities connected through the Study Abroad Program and the Exchange Program. So far, the Study Abroad Program have been made and they are about to be translated in French and Spanish and a template of contract has been done. The strategy is to count on you, NDs and LDs,

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MARIE-AGNES FINE

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to reach out to your universities and explain them about those two programs with the help of the SAP coordinators and then thanks to your contribution, IAAS World will be able to secure a contact with your universities and hopefully integrate them in the IAAS network via the SAP and/or the ExPro. If you are interested in taking part in this adventure don't hesitate to contact my team at studyabroad@iaasworld.org. You'll find enclose to this letter the promotional documents related to the SAP.

As a side task, I also engaged myself in the process of having the best showcase for IAAS in our website. This is why, I have been working on the structure of the website as well as in the design and content of the pages related to the Study Abroad Program (I will then take care of the Partners & Sponsors pages).

Best regards,

Marie-Agnès Fine

IAAS World Vice-President of External Relations 2020-21



ICYA 2021

RESILIENCE OF THE LIVING WORLD

How can we adapt our life technologies to overcome crisis?

2 days of conferences & exhibitors' fair
2 days of trainings & workshops

This past year, we have deeply transformed our daily lives in response to an unexpected global pandemic. There is another crisis to overcome: the environmental one. How can we learn from the on-going crisis to adapt to those of the future? What does the current crisis tell us about the resilience of our industries - especially our food and medical production systems? What does a sanitary crisis tell us about the complex links between our health and food? What is the relationship between our biological systems and how they can be used to improve health? This year's ICYA encourages you to explore the resilience and potential for change in our agricultural, food & biotechnological industries in regards to the past crisis as well as those we anticipate. All discussions will be designed to offer unique perspectives of the environmental, social and economic problems we face as the next generation of leaders in life sciences worldwide.



Announcements!

Welcome to IAAS Madagascar and IAAS Afghanistan!

2 new families joined our big FamillIAAS, IAAS Afghanistan and IAAS Madagascar! Additionally, the Executive Board and Regional Boards are working with 2 new prospective countries which will also be announced as soon as it becomes official!



EB Activity Plan

Duration: Mar 2021 – Aug 2021

Executive Board

By the end of August 2021:

1. Having IAAS represented in at least 5 UN & FAO events (while having an impact on political decisions).
2. Disseminate IAAS Guidelines and establish a collaboration with 20 National Committees.
3. Support the creation of 20 scientific events with a strong collaboration with our national and local committees.
4. Have the current to do list (+streaming service, paypal button...) in trello implemented for the website by the end of April.
5. Maintain and support all the existing VCPs and create at least 5 new ones.

Omar – President

By the end of August 2021:

1. Represent IAAS in at least 5 external events from our partners
2. Coordinate the creation of at least 2 new policy documents
3. Have IAAS as part of COP 26 and UN Food Systems Summit
4. Create a complete individual members' database of IAAS linked with IAAS Website.
5. Create an organizational structure that allows IAAS members to represent the Association in global challenges and fora. (needs GA approval)

Kamiar - Vice President of Finance

By the end of August 2021:

1. Finish Finance Standard, merch SOP, help countries in need, online bank and success stories
2. Organise a Finance Summit which will include 6 workshops/trainings and at least one speech from a very experienced person
3. Have DF-awareness which leads to a successful DF-Day and a successful online donation campaign → €3000
4. Invest money in projects and events, with a total value of at least €5000 coming from grants
5. Take time to dream, rethink strategy, evaluate QB, give challenging tasks, teach and motivate and ensure visibility, reward and recognition.

EB Activity Plan

Duration: Mar 2021 – Aug 2021

Festus - Vice President of Communication

By the end of August 2021:

1. Marketing Communication Academy: Making Guidelines for IAAS Communication Strategy that could be implemented in every committee.
2. Creation of External Engagement Campaign Plan: To generate bigger exposure and branding of IAAS to external stakeholders (50% from social media)
3. Global Project Channel: Focused channel which could contribute to the SDGs by raising awareness together with the Global Project Coordinator.
4. Expro Marketing Academy & Fundraising Marketing Plan: Digital Marketing plan specifically for Exchange Program and Event/Development Fund activities.
5. Humans of IAAS for Alumni: Involving 25 alumni to support our operations in IAAS, starting by engaging them through HoFIAAS.

Marie- Vice President of External Relations

By the end of August 2021:

1. Having at least 1 speaker from UN & FAO for the ICYA by March, 31st
2. Having relevant speakers (at least 12) & exhibitors (at least 30) for the ICYA by April, 30th
3. Making 3.000€ benefits with the ICYA via sponsorships by May, 10th
4. Having 20% of universities hosting an IAAS committee joining the SAP X ExPro by June, 30th
5. Keep our contacts & network in a database properly "handovered" by August, 15th

Eduardo - Vice President of Exchange

By the end of August 2021:

1. Support the implementation of an ExPro Team Region and creation of a 5 person National ExPro Team
2. Implement business strategies from 5 companies in our Exchange Program
3. Create a course for NExCOs on how to manage the website and the intern application process.
4. Collaborate with the webmaster of IAAS website to have it run efficiently.
5. Work together with VPER to create the SAP & ExPro, along with VPC ExPro academy marketing.



International Association
of Students in Agricultural
and Related Sciences

