

CONCEPT NOTE

The Fourth Biennial Meeting of RASSEA

Rural advisory services and lifelong learning for agricultural innovations in the digital era

September 26, 2025, Via Zoom

This year's online Rural Advisory Services for Southeast Asia (RASSEA) forum and biennial meeting aims to unpack the challenges of digital technologies and data analytics as they transform the agriculture sector amid concerns of possibly further marginalizing small farmers. While digitalization ushers in efficiency and innovation by providing timely and accurate data necessary to make informed decisions, concerns abound regarding how these technologies impact small and medium-sized farmers, especially those in remote areas. Rural advisory services (RAS) are committed to strengthening the capacities of those in the agricultural sector and maximizing the potential of digital technologies in reaching out to actors in the agricultural supply chain. This commitment is rooted in lifelong learning, which focuses on helping individuals and communities by ensuring access to critical knowledge and skills necessary to improve their conditions throughout life.

As we navigate this exciting yet uncertain future, we invite experts, country members, and representatives to share their experiences with digital technologies and data analytics while striving to create a better future for all agricultural stakeholders. We are eager to learn from experts across various countries who will share their experiences promoting lifelong learning through digital technologies and data analytics. This year's biennial meeting will be conducted entirely online via Zoom.

RASSEA is a rural advisory services forum for Southeast Asia designed to enable multiple stakeholders in extension education and rural advisory services (RAS) to collaborate and improve the quality of these services in pursuit of sustainable agri-food systems. It acts as a subregional network of Asia Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services (APIRAS) and is a member of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS).

RASSEA has a strategic plan for 2021-2030 that serves as a platform for developing activities both internally and fostering synergy and collaboration with various stakeholders. Since its establishment, RASSEA has implemented programs that facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences among country forums (CFs). Currently, there are three CFs in RASSEA: the Philippines Extension and Advisory Services (PhilEASNet) forum, the Indonesia Forum for Rural Advisory Services (IFRAS), and the Malaysia Forum for Rural Advisory Services (MAFRAS) Network. According to the latest update, Timor Leste is interested in establishing a country forum, and this initiative is still under discussion among colleagues in Timor Leste.

The objective of the fourth Biennial RASSEA Meeting is to share members' experiences and develop recommendations for enhancing extension and advisory services (EAS).

RASSEA Biennial Meeting

Time (UTC+8)	Activities	PIC/Speaker
9:00 AM	Acknowledgement of Participants Presentation of Agenda	Ms. Lanny Eugenia RASSEA Secretary & Puan Tani
9:15 AM	Welcome Remarks	Dr. Siti Amanah Chairperson, RASSEA Prof. Dr. Rowena DT. Bacongus President, Philippine Extension Rural Advisory Network, Inc.
9:30 AM	Country Report 1	Prof. Dr. Rowena DT. Bacongus
9:45 AM	Country Report 2	Prof. Dr. Norsida Man President for Malaysia Forum for RAS
10:00 AM	Country Report 3	Dr. Johan David Wetik Chairperson, IFRAS
10:15 AM	RASSEA report	Dr. Siti Amanah
10:30 PM	Open Forum Moderator:	Dr. Ranny Mutiara Deputy Chairperson, RASSEA
11:00 AM	Synthesis	Dr. Epsi Euriga RASSEA Program Manager Mr. Rafnel Azhari, RASSEA Affiliate
11:15 AM	Ways forward	Dr. Siti Amanah
11:30 AM	Closing	Ms. Lanny Eugenia RASSEA Secretary & Puan Tani

RASSEA Biennial Meeting with Keynote Speakers & Plenary Talks

Participants require registration to receive the ID Zoom Meeting

Registration Link: <https://ipb.link/rassearegistrationform-2025>

Time UTC+8	Activity	Resource person and topic
1:50 PM	Open Zoom	
2:00 PM	Acknowledgement of participants	Dr. Ranny Mutiara Deputy Chairperson, RASSEA
2:10 PM	Welcome Remarks	Dr. Siti Amanah Chairperson, RASSEA Prof. Dr. Rowena DT. Bacongus President, Philippine Extension Rural Advisory Network, Inc.
2:20 PM	Introduction of the Keynote Speaker	Dr. Siti Amanah
2:30 PM	Keynote Speech	Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman Director, Centre for Research on Innovation and Science Policy (CRISP), INDIA
3:00 PM	Open Forum	Mr. Jim Leandro P. Cano, Co-founder, Go Eden Philipplines, Board Member, PhilEASNet
3:30 PM	Introduction of the plenary speaker	Ms. Antonieta J. Arceo Deputy Director, Agricultural Training Institute
3:35 PM	Plenary Talk	Dr. Remelyn R. Recoter Director, Agricultural Training Institute
4:00 PM	Open Forum	Mr. Jim Leandro P. Cano
4:30 PM	Synthesis	Dr. Felisa L. Malabayabas Associate Professor, University of the Philippines, Los Banos, Treasurer, PhilEASNet
4:45 PM	Closing Remarks	Dr. Virginia R. Cardenas, RASSEA Adviser Retired Professor, College of Public Affairs and Development RASSEA Advisor