# Rural Extension and Innovation Systems Journal

**volume 14**  
**number 1**  
**year 2018**

**ISSN: print 2204–8758**  
**ISSN: online 2204–8766**

## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii</td>
<td>Editorial Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv</td>
<td>Foreword</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v</td>
<td>The character of Rural Extension and Innovation Systems Journal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Research – Peer refereed papers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jason Major, Will Grant &amp; Sue Stocklmayer</td>
<td>Are farmers empowered? The role of empowerment in farmer decision making about weed and invertebrate management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Dipanwita Bhattacharjee, Md. Safiul Islam Afrad, Md. Enamul Haque &amp; Aliyu Akilu Barau</td>
<td>Gender mainstreaming and participation in shifting cultivation among Chakma tribe: A comparative study in selected areas of Bangladesh and India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Ivie Olaghere, Abdulazeez Muhammad-Lawal &amp; Kemi Omotesho</td>
<td>Constraints to liquid fertilizer usage in dry season vegetable production in the Southern Guinea Savannah Zone of Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Surya P Adhikari, Krishna P Timsina &amp; Jeevan Lamichhane</td>
<td>Adoption and impact of rain water harvesting technology on rural livelihoods: The case of Makwanpur district, Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Chandre Gowda MJ, Shrishail Dolli, Durga Prasad MV, Saravanan D &amp; Sreenath Dixit</td>
<td>Pooled innovativeness and learning-pattern based adopter categorization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Kelly Rijswijk, Denise Bewsell, Maureen O'Callaghan &amp; James A. Turner</td>
<td>The Next Generation of Biopesticides: Institutional barriers and enablers to co-innovation in a science and commercialisation programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>J Pickering1, J Hong, R Stower, D Hong &amp; M Kealley</td>
<td>Using psychology to understand practice change among sugar cane growers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>Heather M Collins, Dave I Gray, Janet I Reid, Nicola M Shadbolt &amp; Anne E Dooley</td>
<td>Accessing and building social capital: How a farmer-led initiative influenced environmental policy implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>Lydia Turner, Roger Wilkinson &amp; Sue Kilpatrick</td>
<td>Recordkeeping helps increase farmer confidence to change practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>Chris Radcliffe, Norah Rihai, Cesidio Parissi &amp; Anantanarayanan Raman</td>
<td>More than a political slogan: the value of kastom in extension for sustainable agricultural in Vanuatu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Practice – industry relevant papers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>John L Hawley, Kelsey Hall &amp; Ataharul Chowdhury</td>
<td>Agricultural communicators’ use of mobile devices and social media in USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Linda Walters, Justine Severin &amp; Louisa Ferrier</td>
<td>Filling the GAPP: supporting young and women farmers to grow, adopt, produce and profit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Judi Walters, Robert Milne &amp; Helen Thompson</td>
<td>Online Farm Trials: a national web-based information source for Australian grains research, development and extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>Carl Larsen, Kelvin Montagu, Donna Lucas, Doris Blaesing, Anne-Maree Boland &amp; Gordon Rogers</td>
<td>Evaluating the effectiveness of an integrated extension delivery approach in the Australian vegetable industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>Sue Heisswolf, Siva Subramaniam &amp; Verni Sivasubramaniam</td>
<td>Crossing the Valley of Death: different perspectives on main-streaming <em>Eretmocerus hayati</em> into vegetable IPM systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>137</td>
<td>Wendy Boyce, MS Srinivasan, James Turner, Helen Percy &amp; Simon Fielke</td>
<td>Combining a cognitive framework and a co-innovation research strategy to address water use efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>Jayne Gentry, David Lawrence &amp; Suzette Argent</td>
<td>Action learning with grain growers to increase understanding of soil organic matter and develop management strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>147</td>
<td>Zoe Creelman</td>
<td>Sharing the load: improving technical skills and competencies of women on farms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Foreword

Volume 14, Number 1 of the Rural Extension and Innovations Systems Journal contains mainly papers submitted to the 2017 APEN International Conference held in Townsville in conjunction with the 8th Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services annual meeting held in Ingham and Townsville. It has been published both in hard copy and online. The journal remains essentially the same, with both Research and Practice sections.

The Research section is for publishing outcomes of research in extension. It contains papers which have been subject to a double-blind reviewing process by two independent reviewers. These papers include research into change management, extension, development and innovation systems issues for agricultural and natural resource management that follow a rigorous and recognised disciplinary research methodology and are double-blind reviewed by Editorial Board members and selected reviewers.

Practice papers are informal, accessible articles that document successes, failures and the lessons from extension professionals’ experiences. They provide an opportunity for rural advisors and extension practitioners to publish stories and case studies about extension practice, which are relevant to other field operatives, but also show the application of extension theory to practice. They are assessed and edited to ensure coherency and suitability to these goals.

For the conference we received 148 abstracts, of which 52 elected to submit Research papers and 57 to submit Practice Papers. In this edition, we are publishing 17 papers from the conference (10 Research and 7 Practice) plus two Research papers that were submitted separately.

The journal is managed by the Australasia-Pacific Extension Network by an Editor, two Assistant Editors (Sally Marsh and Lisa Cowan) and 14 Editorial Board members. For this edition additional reviewers and editors were used to assess both the Research and Practice papers. Graham Harris and Sally March managed the Practice papers while Lisa Cowan and Roy Murray-Prior managed the Research papers.

REIS remains a free access on-line journal, although it is possible to purchase hard copies from the APEN Secretariat. The web site has changed to: http://www.apen.org.au/rural-extension-and-innovation-systems-journal.

Roy Murray-Prior
Editor
The character of the Rural Extension and Innovation Systems Journal

The Rural Extension and Innovation Systems Journal is published by the Australasia-Pacific Extension Network (APEN) with free online access to APEN members and others. A printed version is available to interested individuals and organisations by paid subscription.

The Rural Extension and Innovation Systems Journal is an innovative extension publication of APEN. The journal covers extension aspects of rural systems. It is for professional extension practitioners, researchers, educators, farmers, farmer groups, corporate agribusiness managers, professional farm business consultants, extension and development officers, and postgraduate students who want to help extend the available knowledge about efficient and effective agricultural extension and development activities. Extension has many definitions but to provide guidance we will adopt that found on the Australasia Pacific Extension Network website (http://www.apen.org.au). There are two formats for publication:

Rural Extension and Innovation Systems Research

Rural Extension and Innovation Systems Practice

Rural Extension and Innovation Systems Research

The Research section of the journal will publish research into agricultural and natural resource change management, extension, development and innovation systems issues that follows a rigorous and recognised disciplinary research methodology and has been double-blind reviewed by Editorial Board members and selected reviewers. It targets professional extension practitioners, researchers and educators. The editor appraises a submission to the Research section, determines whether it meets the journal's criteria, and if so sends it to two reviewers for a review process. If a submission does not meet the criteria, the editor will either reject it or return it to the author with suggestions for substantial revision. A maximum of 10 pages in the journal format is desirable.

Rural Extension and Innovation Systems Practice

The aim of the Practice section of the journal is to provide a forum for practitioners and academics to share their experiences and practical innovations with others in the fields of agricultural extension, farm management and natural resource management. The focus therefore is on informal, accessible articles that document not only successes but also failures and the lessons from extension professionals’ experiences. A maximum of six pages in the journal format is desirable. The editors will favour articles that contain the following elements:

- an innovative angle to agricultural extension and consultancy
- the use of extension and consultancy approaches in a new situation or setting, including critical reflections on lessons learned from the author’s experiences
- an attempt to develop new techniques or practices, or innovative adaptations of existing ones
- an assessment of the impacts of agricultural extension approaches or programs on the farming community
- the potential and limitations for a broader role for agricultural extension in such areas as rural development and policy.

Who can access the Rural Extension and Innovation Systems Journal?

The REIS Journal is published online free of charge for APEN members and a wider audience. A subscription for printed copies of the journal can be ordered by contacting the APEN Secretariat.

Who can publish in Rural Extension and Innovation Systems Journal?

The REIS Journal accepts articles submitted by rural advisory and extension researchers and practitioners worldwide. However, we encourage those of you resident in Australia, New Zealand or Pacific countries to become APEN members by contacting the APEN Secretariat at info@apen.org.au. To submit a paper for publication please send an electronic copy of your paper (edited as per Instructions to Authors, which is available on the REIS web site) to the Editor at roy@agribizarde.com.

The Editor will decide whether a paper meets the criteria for acceptance and then send it out for review under the Research or Practice guidelines. Those articles accepted after the review process will be published.