

Agricultural Extension

Extension and advisory services (EAS) are well recognized as a key factor in contributing to agricultural productivity and growth. However, rigorous evaluation of EAS approaches and assessment of complex national or subnational pluralistic EAS systems are rare. This working paper examines the literature on experiential and empirical insights and explores methods to assess complex pluralistic EAS systems. The authors present conceptual thinking on innovation systems and EAS, and review the IFPRI "best-fit" framework. This framework remains relevant because it is based on a holistic perspective with an impact pathway orientation. The paper aims to operationalize and improve the best-fit framework to guide the evaluation of complex EAS systems. The authors draw on and summarize existing literature to illustrate methods and tools used to analyze each component of the framework. The review pays close attention to the literature and methods for assessing the diversity of service providers and their various delivery tools and learning approaches. The discussion also pays close attention to the interaction of each component and how it affects the performance and impact of EAS from a systems perspective. This paper adds key points and considerations on how to operationalize the best-fit framework to carry out evaluations of pluralistic EAS.

Recommends the adoption of multiple strategies for agricultural extension and a flexible attitude by governments in addressing the issue. Agriculture contributes significantly to the growth of many developing countries. Its development is closely linked to several key interrelated factors such as infrastructure, research, extension, farm inputs, rural credit, price policies, and marketing. This paper examines agricultural extension within this context, drawing on a variety of ongoing cases throughout the world. The author stresses the need for governments to define a specific strategy for extension and to re-examine the role of the public sector.

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Agricultural Extension in Thailand
A Study of the Training and Visit System
Agricultural Extension
Generic Challenges and the Ingredients for Solutions
World Bank Publications
Innovative Agricultural Extension for Women
A Case Study in Cameroon
World Bank Publications
Future Agricultural Extension

Agricultural transformation and development are critical to the livelihoods of more than a billion small-scale farmers and other rural people in developing countries. Extension and advisory services play an important role in such transformation and can assist farmers with advice and information, brokering and facilitating innovations and relationships, and dealing with risks and disasters. *Agricultural Extension: Global Status and Performance in Selected Countries* provides a global overview of agricultural extension and advisory services, assesses and compares extension systems at the national and regional levels, examines the performance of extension approaches in a selected set of country cases, and shares lessons and policy insights. Drawing on both primary and secondary data, the book contributes to the literature on extension by applying a common and comprehensive framework — the "best-fit" approach — to assessments of extension systems, which allows for comparison across cases and geographies. Insights from the research support reforms — in governance, capacity, management, and advisory methods — to improve outcomes, enhance financial sustainability, and achieve greater scale. *Agricultural Extension* should be a valuable resource for policymakers, extension practitioners, and others concerned with agricultural development.

The paper opens with brief examinations of the process of agricultural extension, and the different forms of publicly provided extension services. An extensive review of the common ways of organizing extension emphasizes the similarities and differences between, and strengths and weaknesses of, rural extension, commodity based extension and extension services founded in Universities. The World Bank is shown to have supported all types of extension. The scale of that support and the Bank's role and aims in providing it are examined at some length. The achievements of other donors are similarly examined. Several important aspects of extension are identified which require careful treatment in designing or modifying extension systems. The importance of a stable agricultural policy environment is emphasized along with the need for a robust yet flexible research system. Further drawing on work done by the World Bank and elsewhere, some important economic issues in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating extension projects are reviewed. The paper closes by drawing a series of conclusions relevant to the formulation of agricultural extension policy and notes some areas where further study and analysis are needed.

The Training and Visit (T&V) system of management was introduced in Kenya by the World Bank in 1982 as a pilot, which became effective in 1991. The two Bank Extension Projects that supported the T&V system sought to increase agricultural productivity and develop the institutions of the extension service. Whether the extension approach is effective or not became a subject for debate. The costs appear to be high and the impact on agricultural production low. This volume evaluates the impact of the system based on a credible body of empirical evidence. It identifies the system's deficiencies and makes recommendations for improvement.

Agricultural extensions systems were introduced in Uganda by the colonial administration, in the early twentieth century. It has been a key part of Uganda's agricultural development strategy, albeit with changes and innovations in approaches, institutional arrangements, methods, and strategies. There has been a dearth documented information on the subject, and this study now provides a systematic documentation and analysis of these changes and innovations, with a view to drawing lessons to inform theory and practice, and to avoid repetition of past mistakes. The book is organised in three parts: Uganda's Experiences with a Privatised contract Farmer-owned Extension Approach; Innovative Extension Methodologies; and Training and Capacity Development for Innovation and Reform in Agricultural Extension. Margaret Najjingo Mangheni is a senior lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Extension/Education at Makerere University. The contributors to the book have served in agricultural extension education as educators, managers and field practitioners, in Uganda and elsewhere.

The contributors to this document compare the main approaches to agricultural extension in sub-Saharan Africa; the cost-effectiveness in view of precarious national budgets; the weaknesses of the system for generating technology; the difficulties in forging productive partnerships between researchers, extensionists and farmers; the ineffective public services and fragile institutional networks; and the degree to which farmers are allowed to participate in extension management. The articles include: (1) "Agricultural Extension and Its Linkage with Agricultural Research" (D. Pickering); (2) "The Commodity-Driven Approach of the Cotton Companies" (G. Mahdavi); (3) "The Extension System of British-American Tobacco (Kenya) Limited" (F. N. Kimani); (4) "The

World Bank and the Training and Visit System in East Africa" (N. Roberts); (5) "A Few Questions on the Training and Visit Method" (D. Gentil); (6) "The Design of T&V Extension Programs for Small Farmers in Ethiopia" (A. Dejene); (7) "Proposals for a New Approach to Extension Services in Africa" (G. Belloncle); (8) "Village Associations and Agricultural Extension in the Republic of Mali" (B. Sada Sy; M. Yero Bah); (9) "On-Farm Research with a Farming Systems Perspective" (M. Collison); (10) "The Farming Systems Approach and Links between Research and Extension" (N. Okigbo); (11) "The Farming Systems Approach in Senegal" (J. Faye); (12) "Extension under East African Field Conditions" (J. R. Morris); (13) "Public Investment in Africa's Extension Services" (J. Howell); and (14) "New Developments in Agricultural Extension" (M. Baxter). A reference list of 95 items is appended. (NL)

Despite rapid advances in agricultural technology and heavy expenditures by governments and donors on agricultural extension, as much as a fifth of mankind - almost all in developing countries - still goes hungry. Extension programs can increase agricultural productivity and rural incomes by bridging the gap between new technical knowledge and a farmer's practices, but research and extension services usually assume that farmers are men. In fact, women play a critical role in a wide range of agricultural activities, and as men move into off-farm employment, women's importance to agriculture is growing. The specific needs and problems of women farmers must be addressed in the design and implementation of agricultural projects. This paper provides an overview of women farmers and their production systems, presents a framework for analysis of gender issues, suggests interventions and project components, and sets out guidelines for designing and modifying agricultural service projects.

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