

Extension and Advisory Services in Nigeria

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Presentation Overview

- Introduction
- Recent developments in Agriculture Sector with particular reference to Extension and Advisory Services.
- Highlights of the Nigeria Report on the Continent-wide Study on Strengthening Agricultural Extension in Africa
- Conclusion

Introduction

- Rural population in Nigeria is not 70% as this fact is obsolete.
- But 49.8% Urban / 50.2% Rural
www.goehive.com/earth/pop_urban.aspx
- It remains the 2nd largest economy in Africa [SA] ; with GDP at (PPP) of \$451 billion in 2012, BUT Popn below poverty line is 70%
- 68m ha of cultivable land area.
- Agric sector is a key component in the cnrty's economy [40% to GDP]; & 60% of the popn is employed in agriculture.

Objectives: To

1. Review the current activities in agriculture sector wt particular ref to the current status of extension and advisory services.
2. Synthesize the above and draw implications for extension effectiveness.
3. Reflect on chances / possibility of extension being effective enough to serve as engine for agric transformation.
4. Drawing from the above the need a change from the status quo – C4D???

Agric Sector + Ext

- Current drivers of the Sector
CAADP, ATA, Agric Extension Transformation as part of d ATA. + Growth Enh Support Scheme
Fadama III, + sev other donor supported prgs.
- ATA has its primary objective in food security, employment generation, wealth creation and the overall econ. devpt of rural communities in Nigeria. AT is defined as a doubling of production, processing, and marketing of principal arable and tree crops, aquaculture, and livestock in Nigeria – using value chain app

- It was recognized that to achieve this - An Agricultural Extension Transformation Agenda was essential .
- A virile knowledge-based, demand-driven agricultural extension delivery system is necessary for the implementation of the Transformation Agenda.
- Need for a legislated agricultural extension and advisory services was realised as essential and the formulation process is ongoing

Agric Sector + Ext [contd.]

- The Federal Dept of Agric Extension has also been established to oversee, monitor & provide leadership needed for an efficient AE / AS del in Nig.
- Approp Institutional structures 4 del of pluralistic AE/AS using vca are being mounted.
- market-oriented & k/s-based Ext Serv. Delivery, ICT-driven is also being implemented including farmers' "ICT Center/ Farmers' Helpline" complemented with other appropriate ICT tools suitable for rural communities.

Agric Extension Transformation

- The ADPs is still considered the best option for EA/AS provision at the grassroots and the States are expected to key into the ETA thru the revitalization and strengthening of their ADPS wt adequate staffing (to attain a min ratio of 1 EA: 800 – 1000 ff), improved infrastructures and facilities, to be facilitated by the FMARD. Also, d States will be expected to promote the targeted value chains of comparative advantage to them.

Agric Extension Transformation [contd.]

- REFILS is to continue as the platform bringing all the actors (both public and private sector) together in tech DADU with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all the actors.
- Known to be weak, uncoordinated and poorly funded and with low participation by the private sector. Under the Agricultural Extension Transformation Program, it will be properly funded, though there is yet to be any sign of improvement.

Agric Extension Transformation [contd.]

- the Extension Transformation blueprint has addressed and provided for the cross-cutting issues comprising of: Women, Youths, Vulnerable groups; growth enhancement support (GES) scheme on items farm (fertilizers, agrochemical and improved seeds and credit); strengthening of farmers'/producers' groups & more conducive service conditions for extension agents including mobility for better performance.
- Since the implementation of all these is still at infancy, there are no valid review/evaluation reports except on the GES scheme report.

Fertilizer and Seed Socio-Economic Study 2 Benchmark d GES

- GES – designed to target smallholder farmers to move from a low level to high level of enterprise performance & out of poverty regime thru market led approach to production.
- No more direct involvement in fertilizer distribution & farm input support to focus real ss farmers, while private sector deals directly with farmers; govt facilitate delivery of inputs and regulate their quality only.
- The study was to be an early warning approach to capture the impact of GES on ss farmers

Major findings of study

- In general - results are indicative that d scheme was generally impactful. Implementation was associated with the concrete evidence of increased knowledge, +ve attitudes and improved practice suggesting that enterprise behaviour of farmers have been enhanced.
- Specific areas of impact included:
 1. Satisfactory knowledge of diff aspects of the scheme.
 2. +ve attitude on use of improved seed, fertilizer,

new arrangement for inputs distribution to farmers, use of e-wallet or voucher for farm inputs delivery etc.

3. There was increased use of 4 farm inputs by farmers – av. Farm size changed from 1ha to 4.7ha/farmer; application rate of fertilizer tripled from 10kg/ha to 30kg/ha; while seed application rates doubled from 4.8kg/ha to 9.8/ha.
4. Indeed the GES for 2013 was received with more enthusiasm by farmers.
5. Study concluded that GES implementation has the potential of a policy change to upgrade crop farming enterprise from culture to business.

Key challenges

- Inefficiency of telephone network
- Literacy barrier to proper use of phones, language problems.
- Some farmers have no mobile phone & were serviced thru the voucher cards.
- Delay in ss of inputs to farmers bcos banks failed to provide soft loans to inputs suppliers and agro-dealers.
- Scepticism on part of many farmers on the sustainability of the scheme.
- Lack of logistic support for ADP officials as helpline staff from state govt.

Place of Extension in the GES

- Not part of the study focused on this it can be inferred from the country-wide study by the *EXTENSIONAfrica* since data were collected about the same time.
- AE work in Nigeria is still male nominated [72/28%], though women are responsible for more than 50% of agric production.
- Av years of experience of EA was 10 years
- 75% have attended training in SMAs; 36% courses on leadership & management issues.

- 30% attended training in communication skills.
- 38% were dissatisfied with their job. Poor sales, lack of coop from govts etc.
- More than half indicated competency in using 15 of the listed 29 ICT tools.
- Extension workers agreed that they have no say on what extension system is introduced.

- Extension Agents showed favourable disposition towards the necessity of communication for extension development.
- But only 57.4% of the respondents perceived communication skills as very relevant for extension work.
- Large proportion of the respondents indicated that extension workers need training in development.

Conclusion

- *In conclusion, the no. of extension workers is grossly inadequate, gender equity is more critical.*
- *More ICT tools and training on how to use them for extension service delivery are very crucial.*
- *Strategies on communication for development should be strengthened to make extension more impacting.*

Conclusion [contd]

- *There is a clear evidence of definite gap in the knowledge of extension philosophy and objective on the one hand and activities that translate to concrete outputs and deliverables on the other hand.*
- *Critical review and restructuring may be required for the ADPs to achieve the desired transformation.*

Thank you