



ENHANCING ACCESS TO QUALITY AGRICULTURE EXTENSION SERVICES FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

Neema Rwebangira – Communication and
Advocacy Officer

Annual Agricultural Policy Conference
Serena Hotel, Dar es Salaam, March 3rd, 2017

Overview of Presentation

- The background and context of extension service provision in Tanzania;
- The objectives of the study;
- Findings of the study;
- Recommendations as way of enhancing access and quality extension services to scale up adoption of new technologies and increase quality of agricultural products in Tanzania.

The background and context of extension services in Tanzania

- The Tanzanian economy's average growth rate is 7% per annum.
- The agriculture sector grows at less than 4% annually. The sector has dropped to 5th place as a contributor to the GDP.
- The agricultural portion of the national budget for 2014/15 and 2015/16 was around 5% compared to 10% Malabo commitment.
- The government offers incentives to boost production, these include subsidized inputs to grain producers. While quality inputs is still a challenge, there is also a lack of extension and advisory services on proper use of inputs.
- There has also been a slow rate of adoption of technology innovations such as improved seeds, fertilizers and post harvest technologies due partly to the lack of access to extension services. 60-70% of households have no access to extension services.
- There is a sound policy framework to support quality extension provision, however there is inadequate public and private investment in training, research and extension.

Study Objectives

1. Existing extension services delivery mechanisms and inclusion of women and youth : Policies and provisions of extension services in Tanzania
 - Review existing extension service policies and budget provisions
 - Identify gaps between policy statements, practices and reality on the ground and articulate challenges in accessing extension services for stakeholders along value chain, and consider specific gender requirements on access to extension services; and
 - Assess women's and youth's access to extension services

Existing extension service approaches

Extension service approaches used in the study areas	Responses by extension services recipients	Responses by extension services providers
	%	%
Farmer groups	11.0	13.6
Different extension providers	11.5	11.4
Pluralistic extension approaches	12.0	12.5
Training and Visit	10.5	13.6
Farmer-to-Farmer Extension	6.3	13.6
Contract farming	5.2	5.7
Agricultural exhibition/shows	6.3	8.0
Leaflets	7.9	4.5
Radio	8.4	6.8
TV	3.7	1.1
Farmer field schools	12.6	4.5
Ward Agricultural Resource Centres	4.7	4.5
Total	100.0	100.0
Key to the green and orange colours	Almost the same answers by recipients and providers	
	Quite different answers by recipients and providers	

Scores on extension service provision policy statements

Extension service provision policy statements evaluated	Mean	Extent of implementation (Mean/4.73*100)
i. Extension services shall be transformed to ensure provision of quality services with increased private sector participation	0.81	17.1
ii. Farmers' education and publicity services shall be strengthened for effective linkage and dissemination of technologies and information	0.88	18.6
iii. A strong technology transfer and partnership entity shall be established in tandem with a semi-autonomous research institution to strengthen research-extension-farmer-training linkages (Probe on the research institution from which they get technologies)	0.77	16.3
iv. Participatory approaches and gender aspects shall be promoted in the provision of extension services	0.92	19.4
v. Specific commodity extension services shall be promoted and strengthened	0.77	16.3
vi. The Government shall ensure adherence to performance standards, regulations, supervision and accountability	0.58	12.3
Total points scored on the 6 policy statements	4.73	100.0

Findings

- Low budget allocation, delays and low disbursement of funds (DADG, CBG,EBG)
- LGA have directives to allocate own sources 20% of the crop produce cess; 15% of the livestock levies and 15 percent of the fisheries levies and 60% of all development funds to the agriculture sector. However national directives in health and education are usual prioritised over agriculture.
- Information on budget allocations shows that higher funding was provided to the high potential and priority regions. Hence Iringa region with high production levels receives higher levels of budget for agriculture.

Findings

- Inadequate number of extension workers with limited resources and no continuous training. In 2013 the need was 15,082 (1 per village) but there were only 7,974.
- Extension recipients ranked access to markets, strong implementation of agricultural policies, strategies and regulations, private sector support and access to agricultural credit as more important than agricultural extension services, pesticides, fertilizers and tools in increasing productivity.
- Financial institutions were seen as the most important of the available institutions that support agriculture.

Strengths in extension service provision

- In some wards, every village had an extension agent, e.g. in Kituntu and Ndama Wards in Karagwe District
- In some villages the farmers appreciated the level of contact with extension officers that was there.
- Maruku Research Centre in Bukoba and Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI) in Mbozi were conducting research in some villagers and disseminating in the same villages and districts the technologies they developed
- Most of the FGDs agreed that extension services reach men and women almost equally.
- Some specific crops like sorghum in Njombe District and cashew nuts in Masasi were being given high support.

Recommendations ...

- More budget allocation and timely disbursement of funds;
- With changing geo-political issues we need to reconsider 1 extension worker per village. More innovative approaches need to be considered;
- Support extension staff to specialize in specific commodities;
- Link producers and agro-processors and research to producers;
- Extension services need to be accessible to more players in the VC (i.e youth should have extension services specifically catered to them.), advisory services to reach other non farmer actors;
- The government needs to focus on strategic commodities and provide those specialized extension workers;
- The government needs to support 100% of the WARC and farmers field schools in order to increase production, productivity and quality of raw materials for industries.

THANK YOU