



Agricultural Extension System in Nepal Issues and challenges

National Workshop on Capacity Needs Assessment of
Extension and Advisory Service Providers
May 31- June 1, 2016
Godawari

Presentation Outline

- ❖ **Evolution of Agriculture Extension Nepal**
- ❖ **Extension Approaches in Nepal**
- ❖ **Agriculture Extension program**
- ❖ **Issues Related to Agriculture Extension**
- ❖ **Challenges**
- ❖ **Way Forward**

Background

- ❖ **Agriculture is the backbone of the Nepalese economy**
- ❖ **It is the single largest contributor to GDP (34%)**
- ❖ **It directly employs 66% population**
- ❖ **Supports livelihoods of many people**
- ❖ **Agriculture is still a subsistence type & moving towards commercialization**
- ❖ **Agriculture productivity and level of technology adoption is low**

Evolution of Agriculture Extension in Nepal

Brief History of Agriculture Extension

- ❖ The formal extension system initiated through the Village Development Program under Tribhuvan Village Development Department (TVDD) as part of USAID's point four program in 1952/53.
- ❖ Agriculture Extension Section established in the Department of Agriculture (DOA) in August 1959 together with the shift of responsibility of extension service from the TVDD to the DOA.

- ❖ The Department of Agricultural Extension was then established in 1967, established Zonal and District Agriculture Extension Offices throughout the country
- ❖ Government had established five departments
 - Department of Horticulture
 - Department of Agriculture Education and Research
 - Department of Livestock and Veterinary Services
 - Department of Fisheries
 - Department of Agriculture Extension

Five departments merged in 1972.

❖ In 1979 DOA was divided into two departments

➤ Department of Agriculture

➤ Department of Livestock Development and Animal Health (DOLDAH)

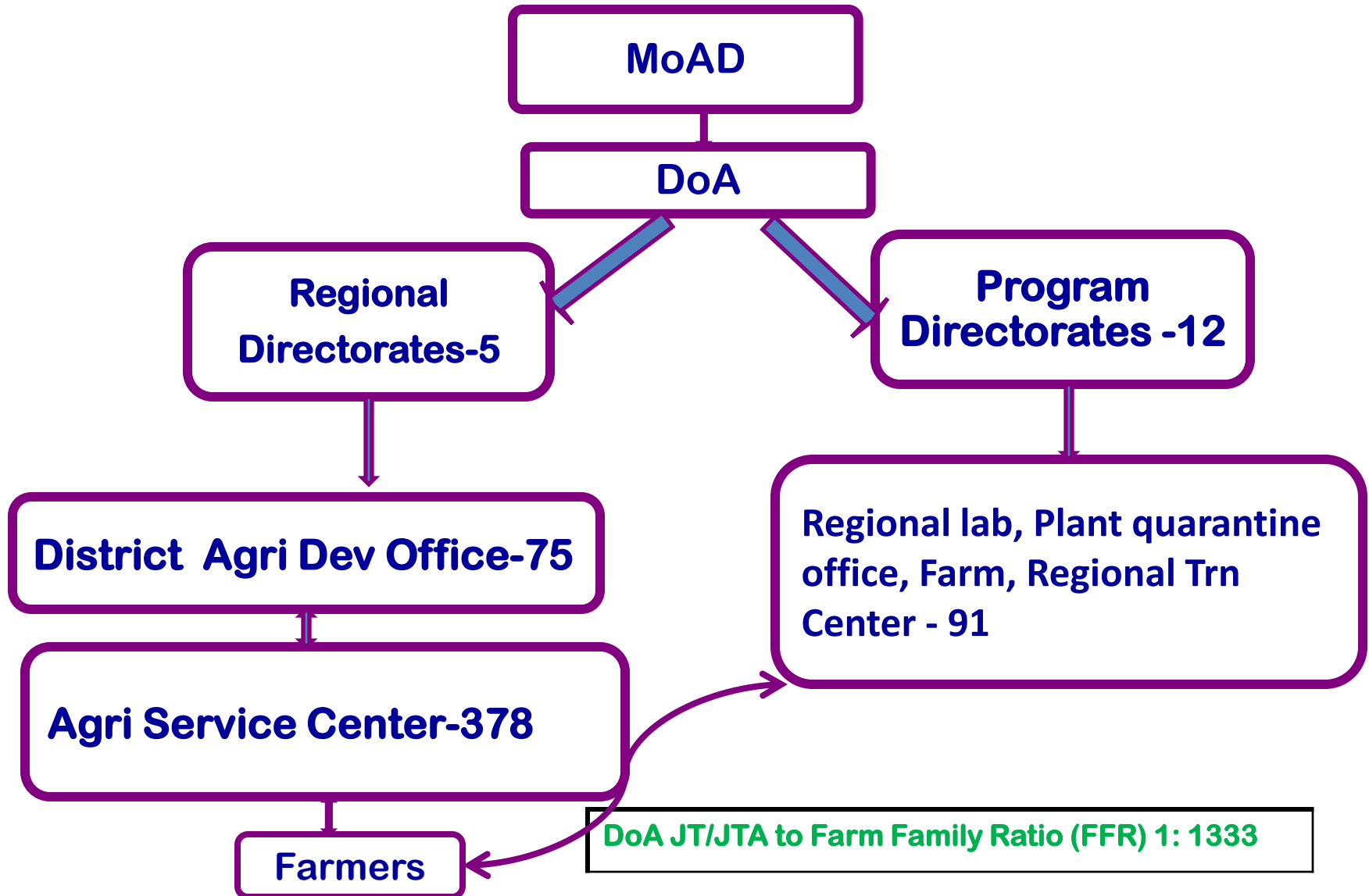
Department of Horticulture was established in 1988

❖ All Departments were merged and established Department of Agricultural Development in 1992

❖ This structure was reorganized in 1995 and formed two departments; Department of Agriculture and the Department of Livestock Services

- ❖ In 2002, the departments have devolved the district extension activities to the respective District Development Committees (DDCs) as per the Decentralization Policy of the Government of Nepal and the Local Self Governance Act (LSGA) 1999.
- ❖ Now, the Nepalese agriculture extension system is decentralized extension service and DOA is responsible for dissemination of crop, horticulture, fisheries and cross cutting related technologies.

Organizational Structure



Extension Approaches in Nepal

Approaches adopted in the past

- **Training and visit system**
- **Integrated Rural Development approach**
- **Tuki approach**
- **Farming system Research and Extension approach**
- **Block Production Program**

Approaches at present

- ❖ Farmers Group Approach
- ❖ Pocket package approach
- ❖ Projectization approach
- ❖ Farmers field school Approach
- ❖ PPP - Partnership Approach

Agriculture Extension Strategy, 2006 has approved
Pluralistic Approach in Ag Extension

Major Extension Programs

Institutional development for Ag Extension

❖ Technical Support and Demonstration

❖ Institution Development:

- Farmer Group (FG) formation and strengthening**
- Transformation of matured FGs to Agriculture cooperatives**
- Community Agriculture Service Centres**
- Farmer's Call Centre**
- One VDC one Technician**

Extension Programs ...

❖ Infrastructure Development:

- Small irrigation development, rehabilitation and strengthening
- Cooperative irrigation
- Cooperative farming
- Storage, collection and market center development

❖ Input Supply:

- Chemical fertilizers
- Seeds and saplings
- Machinery and Tools

Extension Programs ...

❖ Production Programs:

- Pocket Package programs
- One Village One Product (OVOP)
- Mission Programs
- Seed multiplication programs
- Crop intensification programs

❖ Service Delivery:

- Technical advice
- Laboratory
- Regulatory

Extension program

- ❖ **Mass media: FM Radio**
- ❖ **Toll Free Phone Services**
- ❖ **Farmers' Field School (FFS)**
- ❖ **Farmer to Farmer**
- ❖ **Mobile Application**

Contribution of Agriculture Extension in Agriculture Development

- ❖ Massive awareness
- ❖ Introduction of modern concepts and approaches
- ❖ Adoption of new technologies
- ❖ Creation of stakeholders demand for services
- ❖ Improvement towards agriculture commercialization
- ❖ Improvement towards food and nutrition security

Issues Related to Agriculture Extension

- ❖ Weak functional linkages between research-extension-education
- ❖ Poor capability of research, extension & education systems in responding emerging issues & needs of the farmer
- ❖ Inadequate supporting environment such as policies, laws, organizational structure, human and financial resources, physical facilities etc

Issues Related to Agriculture Extension.....

- ❖ Declining active agriculture labor force in rural areas
- ❖ Lack of HRD Plan
- ❖ Low capacity to coping with climate change
- ❖ Ineffective use of agriculture extension tools and methodology
- ❖ Yield gap between research & field
- ❖ Adoption of improved varieties
- ❖ Access to improved Seed, chemical fertilizers and other inputs

Challenges

- ❖ Resilience/Mitigating Effect of climate Change
- ❖ Distraction of rural youth in Agriculture
- ❖ Agriculture mechanization
- ❖ Inadequate extension personnel
- ❖ Current technical knowhow
- ❖ Land use policy
- ❖ No professionalisms in extension

Way Forward

- ❖ **Strengthening the linknake and Coordination among Research-Teaching and Extension.**
- ❖ **Review and Remodeling of Ag Extension System**
- ❖ **Distinction between Ag Extension and Ag Development**
- ❖ **Restructuring of Ag Extension System as needed by Federal System**
- ❖ **Consistent Agriculture Extension Policy**
- ❖ **Networking for sharing of knowledge and Experience on Agricultural Extension**

A scenic view of a rural village. In the foreground, there is a field of green plants, possibly a vegetable garden. To the left, a wooden house with a balcony is visible. The background consists of rolling green hills under a clear sky. The text "Thank You" is overlaid in the center in a large, blue, outlined font.

Thank You