

# Nepal Country Paper Presentation

Governance Meeting of AESA (Agricultural Extension in South Asia)

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# Map of Nepal showing Development Regions and Administrative Divisions



# Demographic Profile

Current Population : 29.5 million

Life Expectancy at Birth : 65.46 years

Age Structure : 0-14 years = 37%

: 15-64 years = 59 %

: 65 Years & above = 4%

Median Age : 20.8 years

Birth Rate : 23 Births/1000 population

Death Rate : 7 Deaths/1000 population

Sex Ratio :

At Birth = 1.04 males/females

Total Population = 0.98 males/female

Maternal Mortality Rate : 59 Deaths/1000 population

Infant Mortality Rate : 48 Deaths/1000 population

Literacy : 62.8%, Male= 70%, Female = 56%

# Socio-economic Characteristics

About 81% of population still live in rural areas,

Per capita Income is about US \$ 700 per annum

Contribution of agriculture in the National Economy = about 32% of GDP

Nepal HDI =0.509 with variation across ecological domains & Dev. Regions

Mountains=0.406; Hills=0.543; Terai/Plains=0.494

Eastern=0.526; Central=0.531; Western=0.516; Mid-W=0.452; Far-W=0.461

Urban =0.630; Rural=0.482

Nepal HDI =0.509 with variation across ecological domains & Dev. Regions

Social Stratification: Hindus=87% ; Buddhists= 7% Muslims=4%; Others=2%

Population engaged in Farming = 70% Approximately

# Agricultural Scenario

Total Land Area = 1,47,181 sq.m; Cultivated Land = < 25%

Area having year round Irrigation Facilities = 23% of Cultivated land

Nepal used to be a net exporter of food grains till 1974, now net importer

Staple food crops = Maize followed by Rice, Wheat & Potato

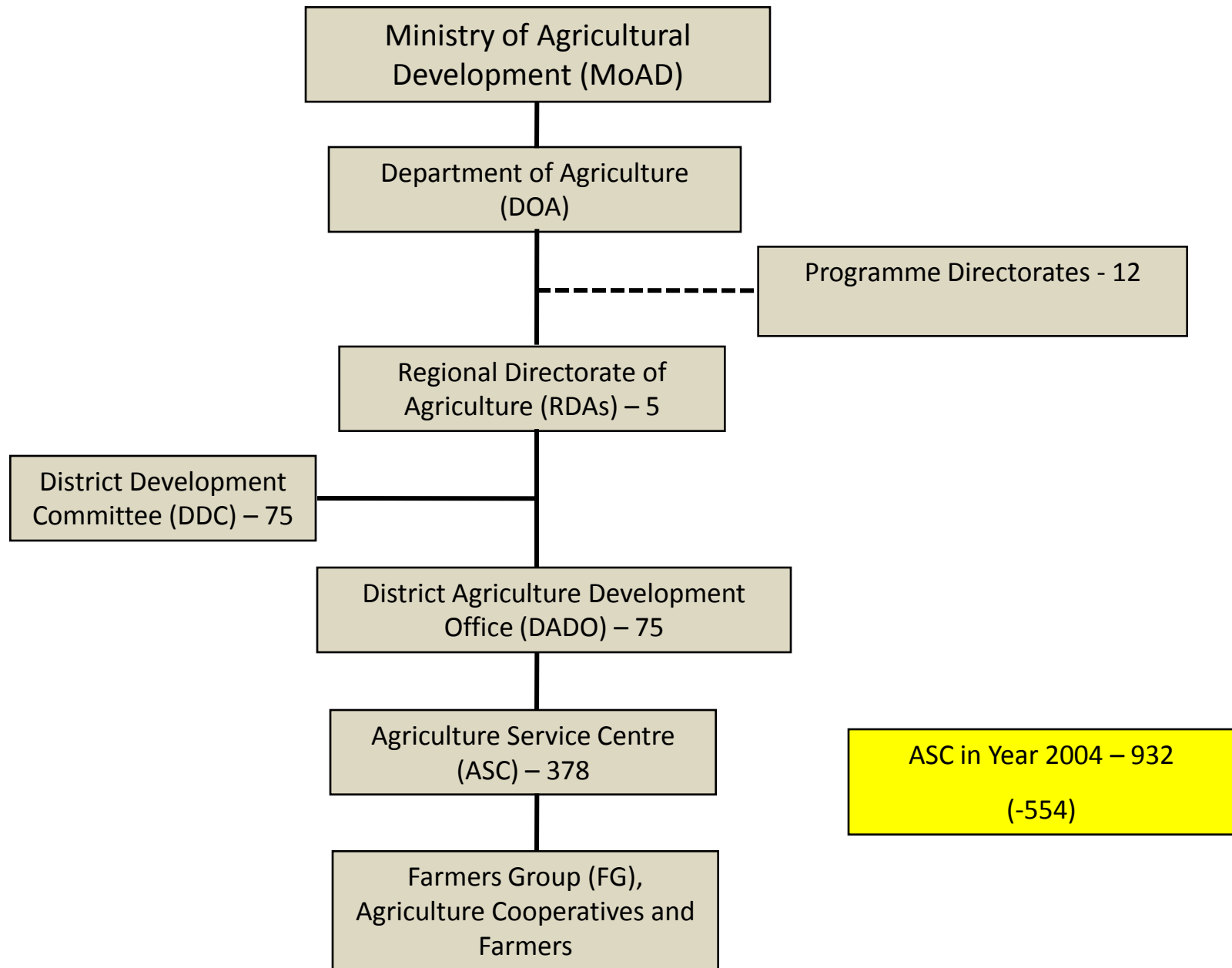
Cropping Intensity :Terai = 300% ; Hills = 264%; Mountain = 170%

Terai accounts for 17% of total land area & 45% of population, 55% of cropped area and 60% of crop production; Granary of Nepal.

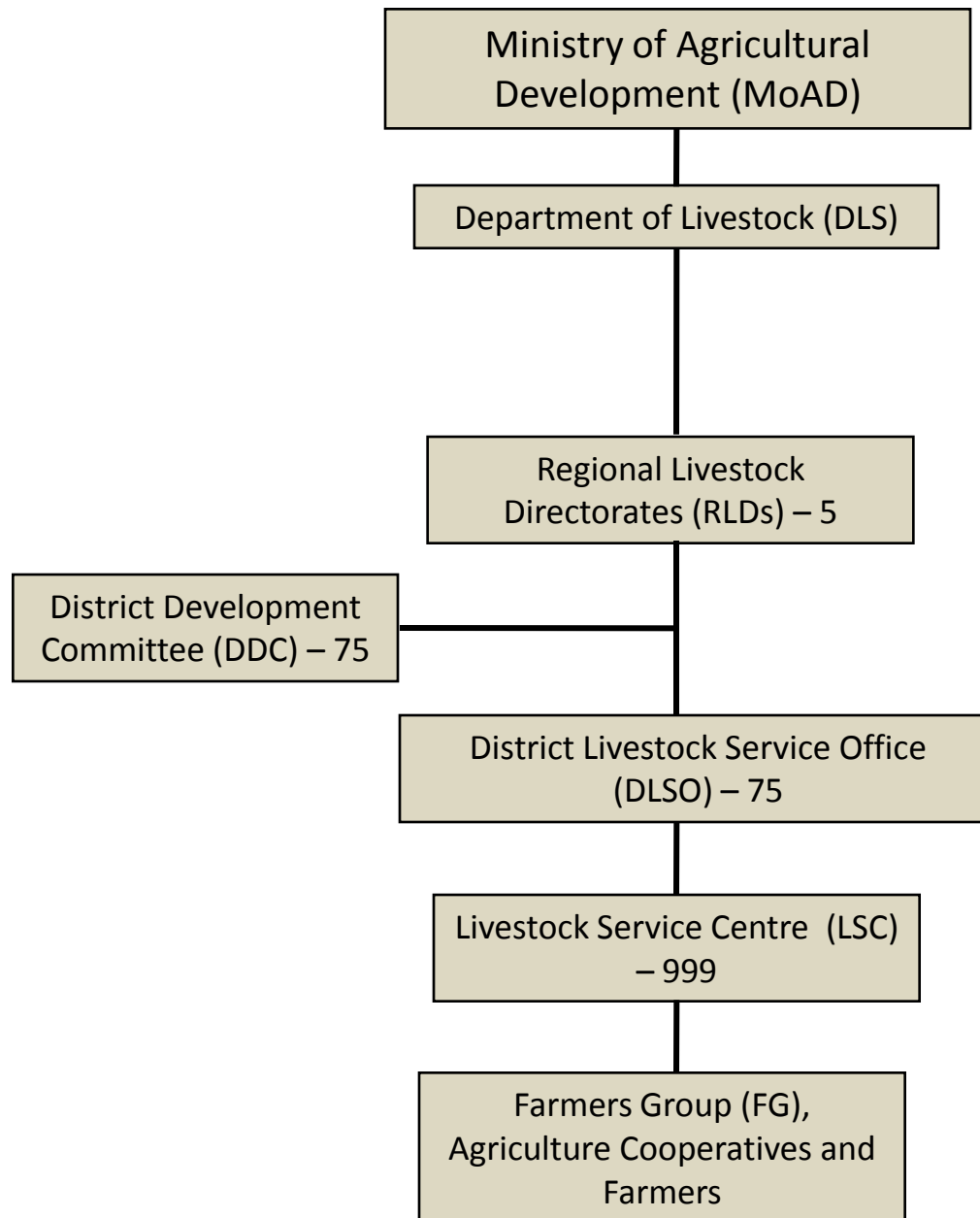
Hills comprises 55% of total land area & 50% of population, 38% of agricultural land. Vegetable farming & Community Forestry are successful.

Mountains occupy 28% of total area & less than 6% of population. Agriculture is livestock based-grazing of sheeps, goats & cattle for meat & milk

# Simplified Organizational Structure of Agriculture Extension System



# Simplified Organizational Structure of Livestock Extension System



Very recently, the MoAD has split into two separate Agriculture & Livestock Ministries. The Extension System of both the Ministries still remains the same (as shown in the schematic diagrams) so far.

# Past Agricultural Extension Approaches till Present

1. Conventional Approach – 1960s & 70s based on trickle-down strategy
2. Training & Visit System – Mid 70s through support from World Bank, adopted in all Terai & Few Hill Districts. Training of JT/JTAs
3. IRDP– during 70s & 80s, focused on institutional coordination
4. Tuki Approach– in 1977 through Swiss support, pilot project in 2 districts
5. Block Production– in 1980s, focused in cropping system research sites
6. FSRE– in late 1980s, USAID funded, Adopted bottom-up approach
7. Group Approach– initiated in early 1990s till present, strategy is to reach more farmers with limited human, financial & administrative resources
8. Pocket Packet Strategy– in selected commodity pockets. Endorsed by APP, Ninth Five year plan & Tenth Plan. Allocated 60% of budget in these areas.



# Recent Successful Farmer-led Extension Approaches in Nepal

1. Farmers Field School : Adopted in specific crops throughout the country

2. Projectization Approach : Direct funding to Farmers group and Local NGOs, CBOs, through the process of Competitive Grants Systems through NARDF.

3. Partnership Approach : Through partnership & linkage with DOI, NGOs, CBOs, Private Organizations, etc.

4. Group based Small Irrigation program, Cooperative-based Irrigation Schemes and Cooperative Farming, Community Managed Irrigation through Water Users Group (Donor funded projects)

Total Farmers Group formed = 32,699

Group Welfare Fund Generated = NRs. 296.39 million

Invested Amount = NRs. 147.6 Million (about 50% invested by Groups)

# Salient Features of Nepal Agricultural Development Strategy 2006

1. Decentralized and participatory approach in Extension

2. Institutional Pluralism – adopting pluralistic approach in Extension

3. Group Formation and Agriculture Cooperatives Promotion

4. Development and Institutionalization of Village Level Extension Workers

5. Cluster Approach and need for Local specific Technology

6. Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Agriculture

7. Identification and promotion of National & District Priority Commodities

8. Coordination at multiple levels for better results and impact

# Main Challenges and Issues in Nepalese Agriculture Extension

1. Declining trend of Production and productivity of food grains.

2. Ensuring food security in high hills and Mountain Districts .

3. Farmers need to be competitive after Nepal's accession to WTO .

4. Impact of Climate Change in Fragile Landscapes and diversified ecosystem of Nepal.

5. Budget allocation in Agriculture < 3% (Too low)

6. Tendency to fulfill donor requirements rather than need based

7. Women's involvement increasing, Their role in farm management decision is low

# Main Challenges and Issues in Nepalese Agriculture Extension

Contd..

8. Extension methods & approaches without research/studies in Nepalese context.

9. Poor coverage of public extension service delivery (< 10%).

1 Agriculture Service Centres (ASC) : 13 Village Development Committees (VDCs)

1 Agriculture Service Centres (ASC) : 8000 Farm Households

1 Frontline Extension Worker (JT/JTA) : 3 VDCs

1 Frontline Extension Worker (JT/JTA) : 1200 Farm Households

10. No Human resource development plan for extension staff

11. Career Opportunities not in line with performance and qualification

12. Poor physical facilities, resources and incentive plan for Field Extension staffs

# Main Challenges and Issues in Nepalese Agriculture Extension

Contd..

13. Practice of frequent transfer of trained human resources and placement not in accordance with “right man in the right place”

14. Tendency of blanket recommendation (one size fits all) of technologies :  
Lack of Need-based technology generation and transfer

15. Youth Migration trend increasing – may lead to shortage of human resources and agricultural labor force in future

16. Capacity of Extension Service Provider not matching with the Farmers Demand and Expectation (especially in recent years)

17. Duplication of Agriculture Extension programs and efforts in some districts :  
CBOs, NGOs, INGOs providing Extension services don't report to DADO.

# Recent Developments

- Increasing trend of National Budget Allocation in Agriculture Sector
- Increasing numbers of Agricultural Projects from the Donor(s) side
- 22 Policies for Agricultural Development based on lessons learned in the past
- Formulated 20 Years Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) – (2015 -2035)  
2015-2016 – Preparation Year for the implementation of ADS.

## Some Developments after AESA Meeting of January 2014 in Kathmandu

- Consolidation with Regular meetings of Nepal Agriculture Extension Association (NAES) which initially got established in 2002.

- Membership of NAES currently increased to more than 300.

- In October 2014, NAES meeting nominated members from different sectors working in Agricultural field to the Nepal Chapter for AESA as Nepal Extension Network (NEN). The members include:

Program Director, DAE – Focal Chairperson

Representative of NAES – Member

Representative from Donor Agency – Member (Ms. Yamuna Ghale)

Representative from Agriculture & Forestry University – Member

Representative from NGO Sector – Member (Mr. Binod Sharma – participant of January 2014 Kathmandu meeting)

## Some Developments after AESA Meeting of January 2014 in Kathmandu

Contd..

- Mega Earthquake of April 25, 2015 led to the unfortunate death of one of our young officer from DAE who was an active member in NAES. This natural disaster also forced us to evacuate our DAE building due to safety reasons. This caused a major setback to our regular activities. However we are picking up the momentum now and are planning to gear up our activities in near future.
- Capacity Needs Assessment of Extension Advisory Services (EAS) Providers is long overdue. This needs to be given priority in our future activities probably in April- May 2016.



# Thank You

