Agricultural Extension System in Nepal Issues and challenges

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Presentation Outline

- Evolution of Agriculture Extension Nepal
- Extension Approaches in Nepal
- Agriculture Extension program
- Issues Related to Agriculture Extension
- Challenges
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)

Two 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

MoAD

DoA

Regional Directorates - 5

Program Directorates - 12

Regional lab, Plant quarantine office, Farm, Regional Trn Center - 91

District Agri Dev Office - 75

Agri Service Center - 378

Farmers

DoA JT/JTA to Farm Family Ratio (FFR) 1: 1500
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

- Pocket package approach
- Projectization approach
- Farmers Group Approach
- Farmers field school Approach
- Partnership Approach
Major Extension Programs

- **Institution Development:**
  - Farmer Group (FG) formation and strengthening
  - Transformation of matured FGs to Agriculture cooperatives
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
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
iDE Extension program

- Marketing and planning committee - crop calendar, business plan, price information,

- Challenge fund - Fund provided to agro vet for extension service through local resource person help in commercialization pocket area

- PMC - participatory market chain approach, joint program planning with stakeholders
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 chemical fertilizers
- Access to improved seed
Challenges

- Mitigating climate Change
- Distraction of rural youth in Agriculture
- Agriculture mechanization
- Inadequate extension personnel
- Current technical knowhow
- Land use policy
- No professionalism in extension
Thank You