

National Policy Dialogue on Agriculture Extension System in Federal Nepal

Tuesday, 9 April 2019
Green Hall, Hotel Himalaya, Kupondole, Lalitpur, Nepal

After a prolonged period of political transition, Nepal's current priority is on achieving prosperity. Development of agriculture and livestock sector is key for achieving prosperity as it contributes towards 33 percent of the national GDP and provides employment to 66 percent of the total population. Agriculture development is dependent on an effective agricultural extension advisory system to a large extent. However, the earlier extension system in Nepal earlier was often criticized of being a highly bureaucratic with lower accountability to farmers.

With the promulgation of a new constitution in 2015, and a successful election of federal, provincial and local levels of government in 2017, people's expectations of an effective agriculture service delivery have increased. As agricultural development is the mandate of all levels of government and a key priority, it has opened up opportunities for formulation of agricultural policies at the provincial and local government level also. The evolving institutional and policy context makes it all the more challenging to achieve agricultural development goals envisioned in the Agriculture Development Strategy 2015.

Nepal's agricultural extension service delivery system is currently at the crossroads as it tries to adjust to the changing institutional and policy context introduced by the new federal structure. The first year after the elections completed amidst confusions on issues such as power, authority and setting up new institutional structures. It is the right time to deliberate and discuss with concerned stakeholders on the unfolding policy issues on agricultural extension and chart way forward.

This policy dialogue primarily aims to discuss on the current status of restructuring agricultural sector, examine the ongoing efforts and develop some policy recommendations for effective agricultural extension and advisory service delivery within the federal context.

The specific questions we expect to discuss are:

- (i) What are the emerging issues and challenges of agricultural extension and advisory service delivery in the federal Nepal?
- (ii) What is the current situation of restructuring agricultural sector in the federal context?
- (iii) How does this structure and the related provisions of public agricultural goods and services better support farmers? and
- (iv) What will be the likely structure set up in the agricultural sector, and how will it align with the agricultural goal and strategy?

This dialogue aims to deliberate with different stakeholders representing government and non-government organizations, private sector, academic and research organizations, donor community, farmers' associations through expert presentation and a panel discussion followed by Question and

Answer (Q & A) Session. It would conclude with way forward and policy recommendations.
