

# Agricultural Extension System of Ethiopia: A Case from Amhara region- Practice, Challenges, Way forward

By: Belay Demissie (PhD)

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# Extension Service in Ethiopia

What is agricultural Extension?

Extension [ is] a series of embedded communicative interventions that are meant, among others, to develop and /or induce innovations which supposedly help to resolve (usually multi actor) problematic issues.

# History of Extension Service in Ethiopia

- More than 50 years of experience
- From University to MOA
- Different Extension systems experiences
  - WADU
  - CADU
  - MPI and MP II
  - T&V
  - Modified T&V
  - PADETS

# Current Agri Extension System

- “Participatory Agricultural Extension (PAE) System” - Federal level- Guideline developed
- Only one type of extension structure across the country with minor variations- Regional level

# Main Strategic Direction of the Extension System

- Commercialization and diversification
- Provision of agro ecology specific extension service
- Scaling up/out of best practices
- Market oriented extension service
- Capacity building of farmers – FTC, lead farmers field
- Follow participatory extension system
- Awareness creation forums, organizing of the community
- Watershed based extension service
- HH based extension service

# Structure of the AES in Amhara

- Regional Level- process owners- Zonal level is an extension of the regional level- SMS Team
- Woreda Level- Deputy office head & deputy at woreda cabinet- extension process owner-SMS Team
- Supervisors- cooperative experts- irrigation experts, animal health technicians (depending on potential)- cover more than two kebeles-

# Structure Cont...

## Kebele Level:

- Kebele Agriculture Office – Newly Established
- Three sub-kebele
- 3 DA per kebele- Each DA assigned in each sub-kebele
- FTC/Kebele- Managed by –FTC committee and DA

# Structure Cont...

## Sub-Kebele:

- Development Team- with a range of 20-30 HH members- lead farmers take the leadership-answerable to DAs
- Cell, social networks, sub-team or 1:5 HH farmer group- organized at Village level
- Required to meet weekly and share experiences and information, used for community mobilization works etc

# AES Management & Reporting

- Reporting- DA- Woreda- Zone- Region-( no formal reporting mechanism- from Regions - Federal)
- Command post reporting system exist ( in parallel with the formal BOA reporting), on selected seasonal activities- through administrators, PR offices
- The extension system management and implementation are not according to the extension guideline- no regular SMS- DA interaction, training and feedback
- Campaign mode of activities implementation dominate the system- seasonal activities like- irrigation, soil and water conservation and meher season crop activities- Livestock not addressed

These contributed for:

- Inefficiency of the extension system
- Staff dissatisfaction
- High staff attrition

# Agricultural Extension Services Providers

Observed are:

- Public- MOA, Research institutions and Universities- mainly
- Private sector- inputs providers, vet service providers, processors, commercial farmers- Out-grower, Extension service
- Small holder farmers: Farmer- to farmer service
- Cooperatives
- NGOs
- PPP as a potential

# Strength

- High level government Policy Commitment for agr development- GTP I & II, CAADP, PIF, AGP, SLM, DRMFS etc
- Policy direction in market orientation and diversification, involvement of non-state actors in AES ( with all the challenges)
- Deployment of huge extension experts at all levels
- Existence of coordination mechanisms- Donor, NGO, GO, and other stakeholders
- Investment in infrastructure- FTC, Access roads, ICT
- Willingness of the Government to revisit the current extension system- MOA- ATA- Regions initiative
- Government appreciation of value chain development approach and projects – E.G-GRAD, EDGET, AMDE, ATA VC and other projects

# Challenges of the System

Policy and strategy:

- Lack of clarity on the policy direction as to how and in what way non state actors involved in the delivery AES
- Mainly public dominated extension service and focus on rain-fed agriculture

# Challenges Cont...

- Technical:
  - Technology packages not specific to agro-ecologies
  - Weak inputs supply system-  
seed, fertilizer, chemicals,  
mechanization, post harvest etc
  - Slower technology adoption  
rate

# Challenges cont...

## Financial:

- Investments like FTC are not properly used as planned- lack of budget and proper guidance
- Budget shortage to run the extension system-No regular meetings of DA, SMS, inadequate transport facility

# Challenges con...

## Institutional:

- . Top-down and command type extension management dominated
  - Campaigns targeting specific outputs- seasonal activities like- irrigation, soil and water conservation and meher season crop activities- Livestock not addressed
  - Less level of participation- DA, SMS in extension system design and planning
- Weak market linkage, & marketing information system- ECEX experience for few commodities
- Weak research -extension - farmer- industry linkage- FREG, ADPLAC etc

# Challenges Cont...

Administrative:

Staff commitment reduced, no self-confidence, Staff attrition increasing

- No clear delineation of roles-administrators and extension staff
- Overburdened DA, specialized DA assigned to serve as multi-purpose DA

# Way Forward

- Pluralistic Extension System-  
Revisit the current extension system guideline in a participatory manner to detail and clearly put the role of the non state actors including PPP- Currently efforts of MOA-ATA
- Develop incentive mechanisms for DA and SMS- with good budget support
- Strengthen the multi-stakeholder platforms (woreda and regional level) with proper role definition to promote the value chain development approaches

# Way forward ...

- Capacity Development for DAs and SMS staff on critical subject matter areas
  - Market oriented extension system, business development and entrepreneurial skills, communication, facilitation skills, Value chain development etc
- Make the extension system more gender sensitive by mainstreaming gender in the planning and implementation
- Strengthen financing of the agriculture sector- innovation fund, credit, grant etc

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THANK YOU !!!