



# Some Take Home Messages From a China's perspective

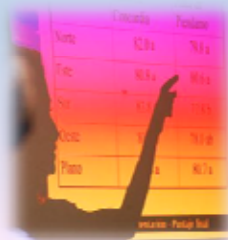
**Closing Remarks at the Roundtable Consultation on Agricultural Extension**

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March 16, 2012, Beijing**



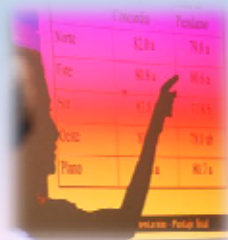
# 1. Agriculture is in transition, Extension must also evolve

- **Food security vis-à-vis farmers' income**
- **Grain production vis-à-vis productions of meat and dairy, fruits and vegetables, “finger food” and other processed food**
- **Urbanization and changes in farm labor force**
- **Development of farmers groups, cooperatives, professional farmers – whom to serve and who will be the target customer of the extension agents**



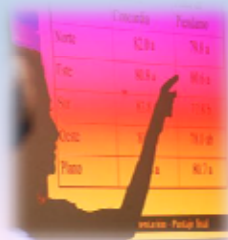
## 2. China's Achievements in Improving Agriculture Extension

- **Government's prioritization and strong support**
- **The public goods nature of agricultural extension: Government extension system as the primary body with multiple players**
- **2012 No. 1 Document: To ensure incentives and capacity building for the extension agents at the township level throughout the country**
- **A well established organizational structure for agricultural extension and poverty reduction**
- **Stronger partnership with the private sector**
- **Strengthened research-extension linkages**



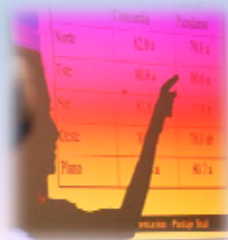
### 3. Need to be more demand driven

- **Top-down approach still needed in China**
- **Need to understand better the needs of the producers, suppliers and consumers**
- **Heterogeneity of agricultural production, cultural diversity and localized needs**
- **What new services and technical support the extensionists should provide to producers in response to the increasing demand for safe food?**



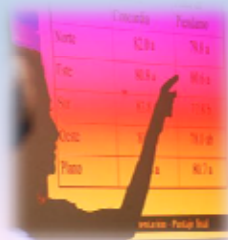
## 4. Needs for technology innovation

- **Traits of new crop varieties needs to suite water-saving irrigation, greenhouses, mechanization women farmers, etc.**
- **Agronomy and cultivation technologies/methods to go along with mechanization**
- **Communication technologies used in extension and empowerment of farmers – markets, costs.**



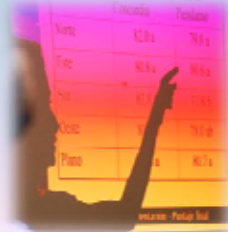
## 5. Engage new communication tools

- **3G-based extension information system, which can also be used to improve accountability of the extension agents**
- **Mobile extension**
- **Distance diagnoses and technical advice**
- **Distance extension can not replace field visits and face-to-face training and service for farmers**



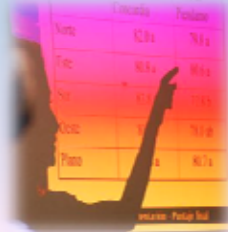
## 6. Public-Private Partnership at its infant stage in China, with great potential

- **Bursting interest of the private sector in investing in agriculture**
- **Private agri-business companies begin to build networks of sales-delivery-extension**
- **Public institutions remain to be the primary source of R&D, e.g.. Genetic resources, research capacity**
- **Need mechanisms and incentives for technology transfer between the public and the private sectors, and to strengthen the R&D capacity of the private sector**



## 7. Suggestions for following up the Roundtable Consultation

- An analytical study on the reform, the cost/benefit and the lessons of the programs/activities in ag extension in China, to be organized/funded jointly by the Syngenta Foundation, IDRC, FAO, and the Chinese MOA, as a following up to the 2004 project on reforming China's extension system.
- The World Bank may organize a similar comparative study of China, India, Indonesia and Vietnam, to identify models, mechanisms and lessons that may be referenced by other countries.





***THANK YOU !***

