

Improving Access to Extension Services for the Poor Rural People **Experiences from IFAD China Program** 15 March 2012, Beijing

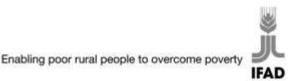


IFAD

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty

Agriculture and rural poverty reduction

- Agriculture as <u>business</u>, smallholder farming for rural poverty reduction
- Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty
- Lack of <u>access</u> to agricultural services a main cause of poverty
- Productivity rise (land, labor & other inputs) through technology: the main way out



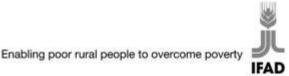
A changing Context on the ground

Expansion of markets

- Private sector taking stage services providers
- ➢ Reverse the value chain (consumer driven)
- Multiple objectives (beyond food security)
- Agricultural skill drainage
- Growing demand for services beyond crop

production technology transfer



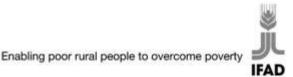


Improving Access to Agricultural Services for the rural poor

- Incapacitate public extension:
 - training facility
 - participatory approach
 - transportation
 - exposure visits & trainer's training
- Incentivize public services (TE)
 - expanded team
 - incentive & risk fund
 - performance assessment

Improving Access to Agricultural Services for the rural poor

- Learning among farmers
 - demonstration by poor farmer
 - field day
 - inter village visit
- •Farmer cooperatives: support for service
 - poor inclusiveness
 - capacity building
 - demonstration, training, inputs & product services, technical guidance, market



Improving Access to Agricultural Services for the rural poor

- Extension linked with credit services
 - extension training qualification for credit
 - refresh training
 - VIG facilitation
- Special window for women
 - WF acquire training services
 - arranged package: extension plus credit
- Partnership with private sector
 - organic production: contracted advisory from market/private players
 - contract farming with company/buyer: technical package

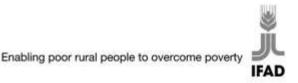
Partnership with NGOs to form farmer groups at community level to:

- •extension planning at community level through groups;
- •training at least one group member
- •expand extension message to others through farmer club
- •extension staff undertake technology dialogue with group through PRA
- •Extension plus credit
- •Adaptive research an add-on

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty

Some experiences

- Extension service positively correlate to incomeproduction;
- Public extension though weak, still main provider for poor rural people (? %), but not meeting demands;
- Limited extension services from public in post-production aspects, esp. organic, marketing;
- Lack of market information prior production decisions;
- Limited coverage to poor and remote farmers, decentralized approach supported by public financing;



Some experiences

- Sustainability issue self-financing mechanism
- Extension linked with credit and incorporate market access worked well
- Farmers' organization a potential hub for various services, capacity building needed (governance, access...), equality issue, inclusiveness of poor;
- Scaling up of pilots and policy influence --

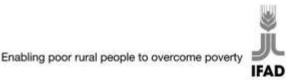


Key Learning:

- Human rights based approach:
 - extension focus on people, instead of technology



- From technical transfer to facilitation and knowledge-sharing, including farmers indigenous knowledge and tacit knowledge from practitioners, such as in market access;
- Producers are not simply beneficiaries of agricultural extension, but are the key stakeholders and sponsors, potential incentive contribution for sustained service



Key Learning

- From information dissemination to Intermediary and facilitating services for integrated services (linking Tech, RF, Risk, PR…)
- Institutional innovation to enable interactive partnership among public, FO, private sector.. (outsource government extension service to external providers ?) → financing sustainability