



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS AND PROFESSIONALIZATION IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION IN GUINEA

What

The objective of this study was to analyze extension and advisory services (EAS) in Guinea to recommend strategies for strengthening partnerships and professionalization of EAS. The study characterized public and private providers of EAS, analyzed partnership dynamics between actors and outlined an approach to setting up a registration and accreditation system to professionalize EAS.

Why

The Government of Guinea recognizes the importance of EAS for achievement of economic and social development. The National Economic and Social Development Plan and the National Agricultural Development Policy advocates agricultural transformation, and for that technical and organizational innovations are needed. However, despite efforts in recent years, EAS in their current state are unable to support the needs of producers and other actors in the agricultural value chains and fulfil their role as a catalyst for the necessary innovations. A renewed vision of EAS in Guinea, also reflected in the new vision of ANPROCA¹, calls for the transformation of EAS from an institutionally-fragmented, parallel system of public and non-state actors into a well-coordinated, harmonized and regulated pluralistic system with multiple providers responding to the diverse and evolving needs of farmers and other clientele.

¹ANPROCA is the national agency in Guinea supporting rural development and agricultural extension services (in French: Agence Nationale de Promotion Rurale et du Conseil Agricole)



Photo Credit: Patrice Djamen

How

The DLEC team conducted consultations with the USAID/Guinea, ANPROCA, producer organizations, producer organizations, nongovernmental organizations, agrodealers, farmer-trainers, market women and consultancy firms. Through key informant interviews and focus groups, the DLEC team assessed factors contributing to improved EAS effectiveness and efficiency, factors constraining EAS effectiveness and efficiencies and options for promoting improved EAS effectiveness and efficiencies. A workshop partway through the study and one to validate the findings were held to make it as participatory as possible.

Timeline

December 2019 - August 2020

Partners

- Developing Local Extension Capacity (DLEC)
- USAID Guinea



Recommendations

Partnerships

Strengthen capacities of EAS providers. We recommend three capacity-enhancing activities. First, government and development partners should develop and implement a national plan for strengthening capacity of EAS, which should include an assessment of the specific capacity development needs of each category of providers (including ANPROCA, producer organizations, producer organizations, nongovernmental organizations, agrodealers, farmer-trainers, market women and consultancy firms). Second, train EAS providers on partnership management, including how to seek complementarities and how to negotiate and manage partnerships. Third, build the capacity of EAS providers in knowledge management and communication, especially external communication and monitoring and evaluation.

Improve information accessibility on EAS actors and opportunities. Create an interactive platform or digital directory that contains information on EAS actors, their activities and areas of intervention. This will give EAS providers and other stakeholders, such as the government, ANPROCA and development actors, a way to share information more easily and centralize information about EAS provision in Guinea.

Establish and strengthen frameworks for consultation and exchange. Develop a national agricultural advisory forum to serve as an inclusive platform for the various EAS actors to coordinate, exchange information and knowledge and explore



Guinea Map: Wikipedia

and harness opportunities. It could take the form of a country forum of EAS actors, as it exists in a growing number of African countries through the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services. This national platform should also have regional (local) chapters to pursue, consolidate and feed the consultation and networking processes initiated at the national level.

Professionalization

Develop regulatory instruments using an inclusive and synergistic approach. In 2019, Guinea developed a strategic framework for agricultural advisory services, which sets the foundation for EAS to contribute to national development objectives. It is advisable that this strategic document be supplemented by operational regulatory instruments to facilitate collaboration and partnerships between stakeholders. Regulatory tools include a code of ethics, norms and standards and a system of registration. However, their development should be inclusive to guarantee their relevance to stakeholders. Once the regulatory tools are created, these should be shared and socialized amongst all relevant stakeholders to ensure their adoption.

Update and enrich the training curricula for EAS providers. Training curricula need to be revised to ensure that the regulatory tools are embedded in the curricula and improve the skills and competencies of extension workers and the demands for services they have to meet. Currently, the Project to Support the Improvement of Training and Integration in the Agricultural and Mining Sectors (PAFISAM) is supporting curriculum development for the four National Schools of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry (ENAE), but this could be expanded to include other higher learning institutions in the country.

Finally, we recommend that Guinea strengthens and diversifies use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in EAS to support clientele during COVID-19, but also to enhance efficiency and accessibility of services.

Contact

KRISTIN DAVIS

Project Co-Director - DLEC

PATRICE DJAMEN

Consultant

eascop@digitalgreen.org