Module 7: Introduction to Facilitation for Development
Lead Authors Hlamalani Ngwenya and Paul Kibwika
Summary

Module Overview

The ultimate aim of agricultural extension professionals is to influence development change in the societies where they work. In the agricultural innovation systems (AIS) context, this change will be stimulated by better relationships between actors. It is therefore imperative that you (as an extension professional) endeavour to develop good facilitation skills to increase your effectiveness.

This module introduces you to facilitation for development. It covers: 1) the relevance of facilitation for development in the context of AIS; 2) facilitating change in individuals, groups, and organisations; 3) facilitating multi-stakeholder engagements; and 4) brokering strategic partnerships and networking.

Module Performance Outcomes

After completing this module, you will be able to:

1. Explain the concept of facilitation for development as a core function of extension profession in agricultural innovation systems.
2. Employ appropriate methods and tools of facilitating change in individuals, groups and organisations.
3. Design processes and methods of facilitating Innovation platforms and other multi-stakeholder engagements.
4. Explain the importance of brokering strategic partnerships, learning alliances and networks in fostering innovation.

Unit I: Facilitation for Development in the Context of AIS
- Understanding the relevance of facilitation for development in the context of AIS.
- What it is facilitation for development?
- Desired attributes of facilitator for development.
- Technical skills of a facilitator for development.

Unit II: Facilitating Change in Individuals, Groups, and Organisations
- Self-discovery to realise our potential.
- Managing group dynamics and working together.
- Supporting organisational change processes.

Unit III: Facilitating Operational Level Multi-stakeholder Engagements
- Arrangement for multi-stakeholder interactions.
- Visualising innovation platforms.
- Policy engagement platforms.

UNIT IV: Brokering Strategic Partnerships and Networking
- The importance of brokering strategic partnerships, learning alliances and networks in fostering innovation.