

Community Based RAS Participatory Extension Farmer to Farmer

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Overview and Introduction

- ▶ Regional study carried out in 2013 regards national RAS
 - ▶ Public entities have failed to show efficacy and efficiency at family farming level
 - ▶ Lineal approach persists in some national institutions.
- ▶ RELASER - 2014 Study of alternative models.
 - ▶ More participative models.
 - ▶ Community based RAS.
- ▶ Regional study under the model of farmer to farmer RAS.
 - ▶ Countries involved.
 - ▶ Study variable
 - ▶ Countries are returning to invest in RAS



General Understanding - Farmer to Farmer

- ▶ Appropriated for family farming
- ▶ Responds to farmers demands
- ▶ Involve the farmers in the services and implementation process
- ▶ The role of institutions that facilitate participatory processes
- ▶ The farmers accept very well the knowledges that come from another farmers
 - ▶ Cultural and linguistic compatibility
 - ▶ Farmer leaders are well known and recognized by other farmers
- ▶ It is important the involvement of other institutions of territory system
- ▶ F to F work as voluntarism

Study findings

- ▶ Basic indicators
 - ▶ Target population in all cases is from low-income families with little access to support services
 - ▶ Wide and varied territorial coverage in number of users
 - ▶ Coverage has to do with the support institutions
 - ▶ The average age of the promoters is 45 years and 25% of women participation



Study findings

- ▶ System organization and governance
 - ▶ Experiences are promoted by the cooperation and NGO's
 - ▶ Most decisions are taken at local level, tries to involve local institutions and municipalities
 - ▶ In some cases, producer organizations manage the model in order to give services to their farmers
 - ▶ There is a partnership between the farmers organization and the facilitation institution

Study findings

► Financing

- Origen of the funds come mostly from cooperation
- This model is cheaper than traditional
- Most of the promoters don't receive a salary
- In some cases municipalities cover some costs
- In some cases promoters sell some services or bio-inputs.

Study findings

- ▶ Methodology
 - ▶ Process conducted by the facilitation institution
 - ▶ Define with some local institution (producers organization) the outreach of the model
 - ▶ Identification and selection of promoters
 - ▶ Capacity building
 - ▶ Monitoring and Evaluation

Study findings

- ▶ Training and skills development
 - ▶ There is a systematic program of training with technical courses and knowledge exchange with other territories and countries
 - ▶ In some cases have started with a certification of the promoters

Study findings

► Institutional relations

- The model led by government has achieved a greater diversity of institutional relations with more contributions
- The more institution relationships the bigger possibility of being more sustainable
- In other programs led by NGO's evidenced a weakness to establish agreements especially with research institutions

Study findings

► Effects and Impacts

- Have developed local agents of change (promoters)
- The promoters became community leaders
- Empowering of farmers organizations
- Technological solutions have allowed leaps in productivity
- Fostered organic solutions

Strengths and weakness

► Strengths

- Respond better farmers demands
- Reach direct to the farmers
- Low cost
- Participatory process reinforce the value of local and ancestral knowledge
- Reinforce the role of farmers organizations
- Foster organic production and environment friendly solutions

► Weakness

- Not all the best farmers have the skills or have the willing to share their knowledge
- Not seen by governments as valid alternative to make extension

Challenges and opportunities

- ▶ Implement this model in a local agriculture innovation system
- ▶ Get funds from governments (local and national)
- ▶ Change the traditional linear extension model

Tomorrow's illiterate will not be the man who can't read; he will be the man who has not learned how to unlearn." Alvin Toffler

Thanks