Strengthening Capacity of National Agricultural Advisory Services Multi-stakeholder Platforms: The AFAAS Country Fora

by

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Outline

What is the problem?
What does this mean for extension?

Who can provide capacity strengthening services?

Intervening challenges
What is the problem?

- Agriculture is main activity in SSA
- But SSA cannot produce enough
- 200 million people are undernourished
- 33 million children go to sleep hungry

- And yet Africa is full of potential
- But you can’t eat potential
What does this mean for Extension?

• Extension is vehicle for modernizing agriculture.
• If agriculture fails, extension is to blame

• There is urgent need to increase production
• And to enhance farmers incomes through value addition
This means that Agricultural Advisory Services need:

- Strong technical capacity &
- Social skills to enhance farmer learning
Who can provide capacity strengthening services & how?
Agricultural training institutions (ATI’s)

- Most common source
- But employers need to articulate their needs
- 3rd party usually required to foster partnership between employers & ATIs

- Country fora can lobby for partnerships
Employers

- Can provide in-situ training/coaching
- Can also source trainers from outside
- Employers may need assistance in identifying organizational strengthening needs

- Country fora can provide important soundboard for identifying needs
Professional platforms

- Provide environment for professional growth
- With knowledge explosion, Agricultural Advisory Services (AAS) have to ‘keep running in order to stand still’
- Enhance research on AAS issues
- Provide evidence needed for policy
- Soundboard for operationalizing policy

- These form foundation of country fora
Modes of delivery

See paper for pros and cons of:
→ full time programs
→ part-time programs
→ distance learning programs
→ on-the-job training
→ short courses
→ professional platforms
Intervening challenges

• Need for strong farmer organizations
  → Until farmers can speak for themselves, progress will be slow

• Population pressure reducing viability of agriculture
  → Agriculture used to disguise unemployment
Thank you