Introduction and Setting the Scene

After the facilitator, Sue Canney Davison explained the process of the session, Silim Nahdy, the chair, gave the context of the first session specifically on extension at GCARD. Kristin Davis then shared an overview of the briefing paper, the ‘New Extensionist,’ and summarised the recommendations that the participants would be reviewing in the second half of the session.

Jeff Mutimba of Winrock then put the questions of what the challenge is for extension, highlighted the enduring need for technical capacity building and how this is increasing with the speed of introduction of new technologies, highlighted the role of employers and commented that agriculture can be used to disguise unemployment. Professional platforms should be used for professional growth and a sounding board to operationalize policy.

Laura Ramirez shared the structure of RELASER and FORAGRO as regional extension and research networks respectively, and outlined the cultural, social, and economic capacities needed by extension workers as all as:

- Public policies and commitment from institutions
- Knowledge management by incorporating local knowledge
- Formation of curriculum based on demand
- Need of ‘New Extensionist’ profile ‘development manager’
- Extensionist as a catalyst and articulator with research
- Formation of multidisciplinary teams
- Monitoring, follow-up, and evaluation

Four important next steps include:

1) Renovating institutions and new stakeholders
2) New partnerships and institutional arrangements
3) New extensionist’s capabilities
4) Cognitive processes

Trevor Nichols shared the activities that CABI is engaged in worldwide to strengthen existing extension services and engage in activities that bridge the high impact-low reach and low
impact-high reach spectrum. Two of the most successful of these are CABI’s plant clinics using existing extension agents and interactive mobile phone information systems now reaching over 4 million farmers as follow up.

Dr Kokate from ICAR then shared the extensive reach both nationally and regionally of India’s KVK (Krishi Vigyan Kendra) programme that reaches down to the grassroots and *panchayats* through regional and local council mechanisms also demonstrated how this programme has assisted information and seed dissemination, risk and disaster management with early warning systems and allowed village level custom hiring of mechanised farm equipment as well as farmer to farmer country exchange visits.

After these presentations (available [here](#)) the participants broke into four groups to look at the 2 page summary of the new extensionist position paper.

1. **National table** to look at diagnostics and roles, training, partnerships and networks, policy, research and funding at national level
2. **Regional table** to look at regional recommendations
3. **Global table** to look at global recommendations

Questions:
- Do you agree with the recommended activities and actors at your level of analysis?
- Can you determine the most critical gaps?
- Do you endorse the recommendations overall?
- How can research consortia best partner with advisory services to build farmers’ capacities?

4. **Cross-cutting issues table: Gender and ICT**
- Analyse the recommendations from the point of view of gender transformative activities and innovative use of ICT.
- How can these best be integrated into the recommendations?

**National Level**

This group took the existing 12 recommendations and regrouped them by themes.

In the group were Tsakani Ngomane, Jeff Mutimba, K.N.K Kokate, Richard Hawkins, Daniel van Gilst, Zerihun Tadele, a representative of Argentina

1. **Diagnosis and Roles**: Encompass existing recommendations N1/N2/N3. Add the need to review and analyse existing EAS models and to deepen and test these by further research into EAS itself.
2. **Training and Education**: Separate training of extension workers from education on extension at tertiary levels in universities and research institutes. Advocate extensively for change in curricula development taking advantage of timing it to the window of opportunity when curricula are reviewed often once every five years. Create more opportunities for student attachments and more relevant research by Training and Extension Institutes.
3. **Partnerships and Networks**: This encompasses N4, N9, N10. Look at the whole value chain on inputs and outputs. Work with the linkages between input dealer associations, marketing associations, and the private sector.
4. **Policy**: N11 – clarify what is ‘extension policy’ and link it with real issues such as land reform. N12 – use this as the entry point for lobbying on funding for extension services. Clarify the polices and roles of extension and advisory services, and look for
ways to improve farmer organisation-EAS-research-CSO-private sector linkages at federal, sub-national, state, and provincial levels. Look for the synergies between national and state, provincial, and grassroots.

5. **Research.** N6 – forge better two-way linkages and convergence between research and extension advisory services.

6. Focus on farmer institutional development with national farmers associations. Build social capital with exposure visits, farmer organisations, and self-help groups.

7. Create a recommendation on monitoring and evaluation of EAS looking at the learning and impact. This is close to N5 and links to N1 in terms of learning.

8. Think of a recommendation covering quality standards and regulations. Is this a policy issue and so how does it relate to point 4 above?

9. Ensure that technological capacity and skills remains a core capacity for the ‘the New Extensionist’.

**Regional Level**

The regional table endorsed the existing five regional recommendations and suggested some modifications. On this table were Stephen Hazelman, Silim Nahdy, Santiago Fernandez (social reporter) Aboubakar Njaya, Gonzalo Becona, and Virginia Cardenas

R1. Need sub-regional as well as regional networks, especially in Africa. Need to mention ‘not action by’ but ‘proposed by’. Take into account, bilateral and continental, regional and sub-regional development partners.

R2. Include ‘support the development of synergies and partnership’

R3. Endorsed as it is

R4. Add ‘Develop, promote knowledge and new framework….. Up-scale and out-scale innovation

R5. Organize – Regional and sub-regional
Add something regarding monitoring and evaluating impact

**Global Level**

This group included Mohamed Abdel Aal, Marc Duponcel (EU), Kristin Davis, Trevor Nichols, Rupert Best (CRS), Wayne Nellis

This group mostly endorsed the global actions as they are. They added actors to certain recommendations:

G1. Add EU
G3. Add CABI and CRS
G5. Add the G8 and G20 and the G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) and international research organisations as well as development agencies

The group added two more recommendations at the global level

G8. GFAR and GFRAS will provide guidance for strategies at the regional and national levels

G9. Develop a research programme on extension and capacity strengthening. Key actors include **AIAEE, GCHERA, TAP, GFAR, CGIAR**, and universities.

**Cross cutting issues; Gender and ICT**

In this group were Marisa Paredes, Riikka Rajalahti, Laura Ramirez, Raul Montemayor, and Cecilia Gutierrez
An intense, varied and detailed discussion took place. Some of the outcomes included the need to see ‘national’ as including federal, provincial, municipalities, communal, and all the way down to grassroots was highlighted as well as for disaggregated data to include gender in research. The group wanted to emphasize the underlying assumption that all the recommendations will look at gender representation, access to services and training, equal opportunities and extensionists needing to learn and adapt to working with women and men’s needs.

As far as ICT is concerned, it was recognised that it needs to be a tool adapted to enhance the performance of extension. Extension was seen as a process taking research outcomes into farming schools and to extension that there is a need for monitoring and evaluation and the purpose is to build farmers capacities, who also act as sources of extension of knowledge and innovation in their communities. The expanded use of information and communication technology should not be viewed as an end in itself and includes many ‘technologies’ including radio and other media, not just computer based technologies and ‘technology platforms’ include face to face interventions.

This group also wanted to emphasize that youth need to be added as an intentional cross-cutting issue and to explore the role and potential of youth in relation to ICT.

The session came to an end with some summarising words from the Chair Silim Nahdy. The main outcomes of the session put forward to the GCARD plenary session were:

1. The ‘New Extensionist’ recommendations for essential capacities to strengthen advisory services were endorsed
2. GFRAS regional networks will use the revised ‘New Extensionist’ concept to advocate for strengthening knowledge and advisory services.
3. GFRAS will catalyse dialogue to prioritise and implement the recommendations to strengthen knowledge and advisory systems
4. Reaching grassroots, women and youth, and adapting ICTs are key elements