Agriculture Extension Policies in Africa

Today’s Purpose: SOW – 3 examples
What is Policy?

Types of Policies

Who Has Policies in Africa?

- Study says of 26 Sub-Saharan countries, 5 have
- Uganda – in ag strategy
- Botswana – part of S&T policy
- Zimbabwe – in ag sector strategy
- Malawi – Actually have the Policy
- Ghana – study says no, but Deputy Minister Gbokie was able to obtain!
- 3 Selected: Malawi, Ghana, and Kenya
- Also some notes on Nigeria (from study of extension professional perceptions of components needed in a policy)
Today: Nigeria in brief and Malawi in depth

Nigeria: Elements identified by extension staff

- Institutional framework and structures
- Safety/security
- M&E
- Sustainability, funding
- Research
- ICT
- Globalization
- Personnel training
- Minimum standard for extension activities, for personnel quality and ratio of agents to clients
Analytical Framework for Review of the three Explicit Policies

- Country
- Policy Date
- Policy Title
- Total Pages
- Process of Development of Policy
- Table of Contents
- Game Changing Context
- General Approach
- Mission Statement
- Major Policy Issues Articulated
- Follow-up Studies on Policies and Current Status
- Reviewer and Others’ Comments
- Additional Items?
REVIEW OF MALAWI’S NATIONAL AGRICULTURE EXTENSION POLICY

- Country: Malawi
- Policy Date: October 2000
- Policy Title: Agricultural Extension in the New Millennium: Towards Pluralistic and Demand-driven Services in Malawi
- Total Pages: 36
- Development of Policy Process: Change Team lead by Ministry of Agriculture, Director of Agriculture Extension, involving stakeholders; technical and financial support from GTZ

Table of Contents
- List of Abbreviations
- Preface
- Acknowledgements
- Introduction
- Background
- Extension Challenges
- Vision & Mission Statements
- Guiding Principles
- Institutional Framework
Game changing context: Malawi was in the process of transitioning from a centralized bureaucracy to a decentralized, pluralistic system during the time the policy was developed.

General Approach: Lots of background information ad discussion of extension challenges. Guiding principles include:

- Demand-driven
- Accountability voice in extension program planning
- Those who benefit pay (service at cost)
- Resources sustainability
- Equalization
- Promotion of pluralism – need for greater choice
  - Provide conducive environment for the private sector (but what to provide?)
  - Strengthen farmer organizations to take on role of service providers
  - Build GOM capacity for coordinating and facilitating the work of other players
- Decentralized co-ordination – decision-making devolved to lower levels; focus for coordination is at the district-level; joint planning & implementation of programs; joint financing via a Development fund for extension
Mission Statement

- Set clear policy guidelines
- Promote equalization
- Initiate and strengthen co-ordination
- Promote pluralism
- Encourage market liberalization
- Set and monitory clear standards for the quality of services
- Assess impact of extension
Major Policy Issues Articulated

Most within the last chapter on Institutional Framework which gave details of roles of the public sector, farmer organizations, private sector, civil society, etc.

Role of Public Sector

Central Level:

- Develop policy guidelines
- Coordinate all
- Pre-service, in-service, upgrading training for all (training recognized by central level public sector for standards and minimum qualifications)
- Provide IEC materials to all
- Build capacity at district-level
- Strengthen farmer organizations
- Develop conducive environment for private sector
District Level:

- **Local Government Act** stipulates that districts are responsible for extension services!
- Interpret and implements policy
- Plan with farmers
- Allocate locally generated finances to ag ext, supplemented with funds from central government
  - GOM funds targeted toward the most vulnerable, address HIV/AIDS, and the environment
- Strengthen farmer organizations
- Provide markets and set standards for quality
Role of farmer organizations
- Represent interest and farmers
- Provide services to their members
- Participate in policy formulation, in planning, and implementation

Role of private sector
- An important role in extension service delivery
- Participate in policy formulation, in planning, and implementation

Role of not-for-profit sector
- Target the more marginalized
- Build capacity of various actors
- Participate in policy formulation, in planning, and implementation

Build partnerships
- With educational institutions, research, religious organizations
Follow-up Studies & Current Status: Maybe available; working on accessing; whether policy is being revised is unknown

Reviewer Comments:

- Did the policy meet its own Mission statement?
- Strength in the institutional framework section

Your Comments?