

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
 - ▶ Kenya – Implementation Framework for Policy Available
 - ▶ 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

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- ▶ 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 and 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 monitor 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

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- ▶ 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

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- ▶ 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

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- ▶ 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?