

# Review of Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Policy

# Bangladesh

- ▶ Policy Date: 1996
- ▶ Policy Title: New Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP)
- ▶ Total Pages: 10
- ▶ Policy Development Process: MOA task force with private, NGO, public sector extension providers as well as farmers. Draft circulated for comment.

# Table of contents

- ▶ Introduction
  - Ag in Bangladesh
  - Ag Policy & Priorities (AG not ag ext)
- ▶ New Ag Ext Policy
  - Role of Ag Ext (various definitions of ag ext – educational, introduces technology, etc.)
  - The National Ag Extension System
  - Goal and Components of the NAEP
- ▶ Implementation Strategy – to be developed (definition of roles; mechanisms for collaboration, supply & M&E of resources, training, linkage between farmers, extension, and research)

- ▶ Game Changing Context: Reinvigorate extension following collapse of T&V
- ▶ General Approach of Policy: No general principles. Eleven components outlined which are to be implemented to achieve the goal of the policy.
- ▶ Goal statement rather than vision or mission statement: The goal of the NAEP is to encourage the various partners and agencies within the national agricultural extension system to provide efficient and effective services which complement and reinforce each other, in an effort to increase the efficiency and productivity of agriculture in Bangladesh.

- ▶ Major policy issues articulated: framed as components to achieve the goal of the policy.
- 1. Extension support to all categories of farmers
- 2. Efficient services
- 3. Decentralized
- 4. Demand-led
- 5. Working with groups of all kinds
- 6. Strengthened research & extension linkages (committees, review workshops with research & extension, contract research)
- 7. Training of extension personnel. Gov't policy: training and training funds to be made accessible to all EAS providers

8. Appropriate extension methodology (visits, demonstrations, ICT, participatory methods)
9. Integrated extension support – provide advice on all aspects of ag
10. Coordinated extension activities: sharing information and expertise; participation in each others' extension activities where appropriate ( through 5 levels – local to national of coordinating committees)
11. Integrate environmental support

# Two follow-up Studies

- ▶ FIRST IN 2004.
- ▶ Major problems: different ministries, different projects, donors, work independently in spite of the policy
- ▶ Major successes: partnership activities (Partnership Initiative Fund – public, private, civil society at district level); built trust among partners
- ▶ Critical factor – gov't & donor support
- ▶ Lessons learned: time, pain, success depends on economic benefits to farmers

- ▶ SECOND IN 2009.
- ▶ Weaknesses of policy
  - Lack of direction on implementation
  - No way to coordinate interministerial and interdepartmental extension activities
  - Weak planning and program development
  - Understanding of NAEP by stakeholders very weak
  - Ownership of NAEP
  - Policy encourages partnerships but few working relationships
  - Committee structures weak, inactive; need specific TORS
  - Name should be National policy rather than new because many stakeholders
  - Regular funding is needed



# comments

- ▶ Appears that components are meant to capture policy issues
- ▶ Consider lessons from and weaknesses of Bangladesh policy to inform Liberia's policy