

Institutional Changes and Challenges for Agricultural Advisory Services in Africa

Kristin Davis, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Guy Faure, French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)
M. Silim Nahdy, National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS)
Sanne Chipeta, Danish Agricultural Advisory Service (DAAS)

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Source: M. Pietrowski/IFPRI

Introduction

- AAS are back on the agenda
- Various trends :
 - New institutional arrangements
 - Withdrawal of state → privatisation, decentralisation, public-private partnerships, pluralism
 - Methods focused on demand, participation
 - Methods: shift from top-down approaches
 - Advice: technical → market
 - Need for new skills for advisors
 - Dealing with demand-led, market-oriented extension

Challenge 1: Sustainable Institutions

- How to govern AAS under new institutional arrangements?
 - Diverse arrangements- no single approach
 - Roles of stakeholders
 - Financing and providing AAS
 - Coordination

Challenge 2: Scaling Capacity for Demand and Participation

- Demand-driven approaches require participation of FOs*
- FOs need capacity
- Positive examples not yet scale...



Source: K. Davis/IFPRI

*Farmer organisations

Challenge 3: Strengthening Skills

- These trends require new skills for extension agents e.g.
 - Aggregating and responding to demand
 - Development of farmer organizations
 - Farm management
 - Agribusiness development
 - Value chain analysis
 - Marketing
 - Awareness creation on cross-cutting issues