“The New Extensionist”: Roles and Capacities to Strengthen Extension

Dr Kristin Davis
Executive Secretary, GFRAS
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Organizing Principle: Innovation Systems
Wide Range of Roles for Extension

Extension collectively performs wide range of roles

- developing networks
- organizing producers
- facilitating access to credit
- input & output services
- convening innovation platforms
- facilitating knowledge management
- promoting gender equality
- supporting adaptation to climate change
- disseminating new knowledge through training & demonstrations
New Extensionist Professional

- Generalist vs. specialist
- Technical vs. functional skills
- Extension agents have special set of competencies
- Extension is science, art, profession
- Defining core competencies for the profession
Core Competencies – Modules (1)

1. Introduction to the New Extensionist
2. Adult learning and behavioural change
3. Agricultural entrepreneurship
4. Communication for innovation
5. Facilitation for development
6. Value chain extension
Core Competencies – Modules (2)

7. Extension paradigms, methods, approaches, and tools
8. Extension program management
9. Professional ethics
10. Community mobilization
11. Farmer institutional development
12. Gender and youth issues in agricultural extension and rural development
13. Dealing with change