

Lecture Notes: Comparative Assessment of Pluralistic Extension Services: Liberia and Bangladesh

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I. Introduction

Liberia is a developing country in Sub-Saharan Africa that remained food insecure compared to other developing countries on the continent of Africa and globe. However, this lecture series is tailor toward assessing the pluralistic e extension

services or advisory committee services of Liberia and Bangladesh. Bangladesh like Liberia is a developing country but how they have been able to feed their growing population and export rice to Liberia worth comparing it Pluralistic extension service delivery programs with Liberia. In order to fully understand how to improve extension delivery services programs in Liberia it is ideal to do comparative assessment of other developing countries. As such Bangladesh would be a country of interest for an assessment giving that both are developing countries.

II. Objectives

1. Students to understand a pluralistic extension service/Advisory Committee
2. To compare Bangladesh/Liberia Extension delivery programs and agriculture institutions linkages
3. Student to understand how Bangladesh use extension services to produce surplus rice
4. Students to understand constraint face Liberia Extension service delivery programs
5. Students to understand information technology communication role in agriculture information delivery

III. Expected outcome

1. Students will be able to analyze Bangladesh/Liberia extension service delivery
2. Describes constraints and way forward for Liberia and Bangladesh
3. Students know how Bangladesh succeeded in feeding its people
4. Students to work in team to seek out information(peer team work)

IV. Definition of terms

Pluralistic Extension System is a provision of extension services for a community which is conducted by more than one source of extension services (Okorley, Grey, & Reed, 2010)

V. Comparative Assessment Bangladesh/Liberia

Issues	Bangladesh	Liberia
Ministry of Agriculture	Have	Have
Number of NGOs	12 (MEAS 2011)	60 (MEAS 2011)
Import Rice	X	300,000 MT (USAD 2013)

Export Rice	X	X
Total land area of Rice production	10.5 million ha (,2015)	280,000 ha (FAO, 2013)
Population	156.6 Millions(UNESCO 2015)	4.294 millions (UNESCO 2015)
Literacy Rate	61.5 % (Female 58.5% Male 64.6%) (UNESCO 2015)	47.6 % (female 32.8% and male 62.4%) (UNESCO 2015)
Public Research Extension Institutions	8 (MEAS 2011)	1 (MEAS 2011)
Agriculture Institutions Linkages	Limited (MEAS, 2011)	No linkages
Internet Users	53.941 millions (World bank, 2011)	3.564 millions (World bank, 2011)
Cell Phone Users	133.163 millions (World bank, 2011)	3.349 millions (World bank, 2011)
Percentage of Paved Roads	87% (World bank, 2011)	6.2% (World bank, 2011)
Total road network	6,116 km (World bank, 2011)	10,600.0 km (World Bank,2011)
Land Space	56,977 mi ² (UNESCO 2015)	43,000 mi ² (UNESCO 2015)
Extension Delivery/ Advisory Committee	National Driven	NGOs Driven
Year Extension Established		
Number of Extension Agents		

VI. Student Activities

Provide small groups of students with a blank copy of the table. Locate statistics to complete the table comparing and contrasting Liberia and Bangladesh. Ask small groups to present their findings...sharing “correct” statistics. Then facilitate a group discussion with the entire class asking the following questions:

- a) What are 3 conclusions you can make based on the table above?
- b) Why small Country like Bangladesh is able to fee herself and export to other Countries like Liberia?
- c) Why Liberia is not able to feed herself too?
- d) What lessons can we learn from them?
- e) What implications does agricultural extension have on development?
- f) List the constraints faced Liberia/ Bangladesh and strengths.
- g) Contrast and compare the practices of Pluralistic extension a Country.
- h) Suggest 10 different ways we can improve the agricultural extension in Liberia