

Agricultural Extension – Historical Context

**Research on Agricultural Extension Systems: What Have We
Learned, and Where Do We Go From Here?**

*Workshop organized by the CGIAR Research Program on
Policies, Institutions and Markets on October 15-16, 2013*

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Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services

What's Going on in Extension?

New interest...

1960s-1980s: Zenith

1980s-2000s: Decline

2000s-today: Re-awakening, then
re-visioning

Changing World...

Changing Roles

ICTs

Climate Change

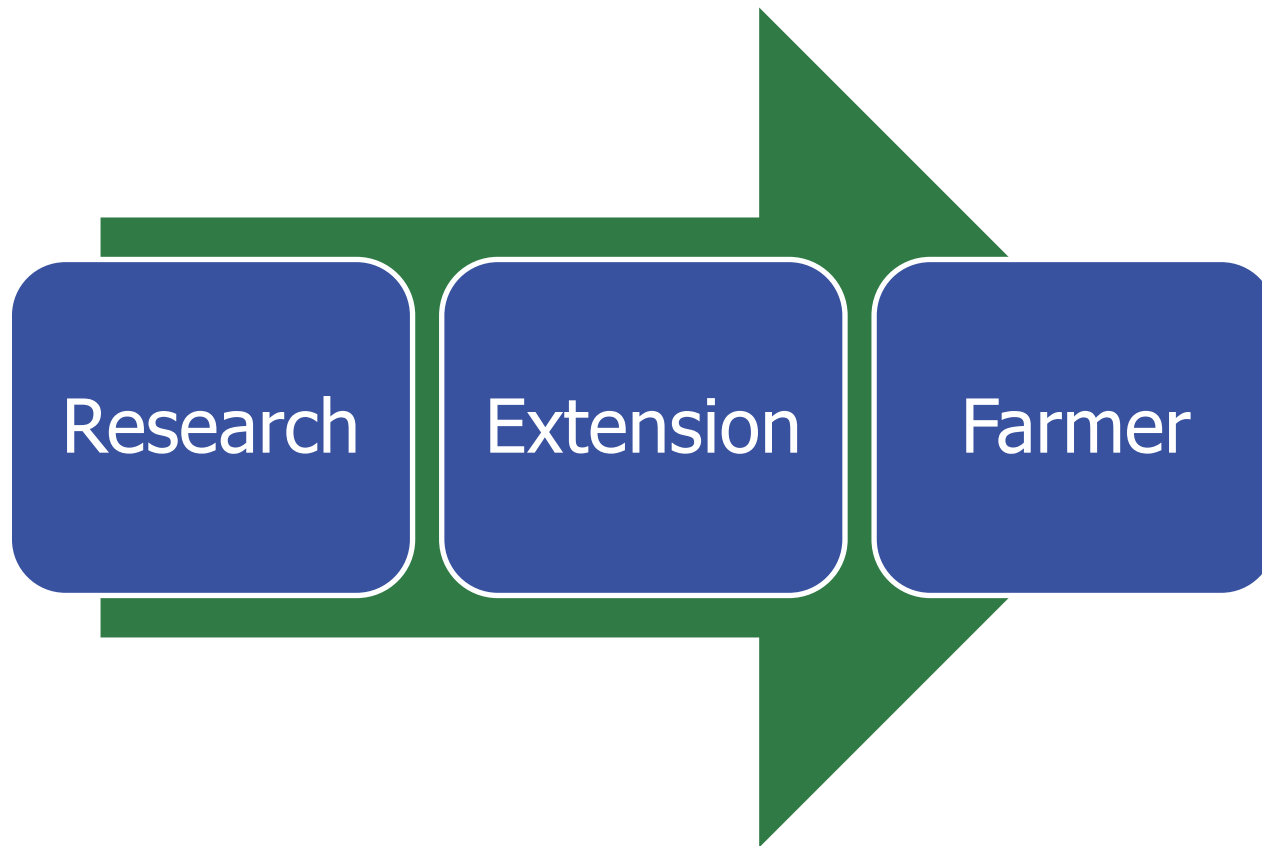
Food, Nutritional Security

Globalization

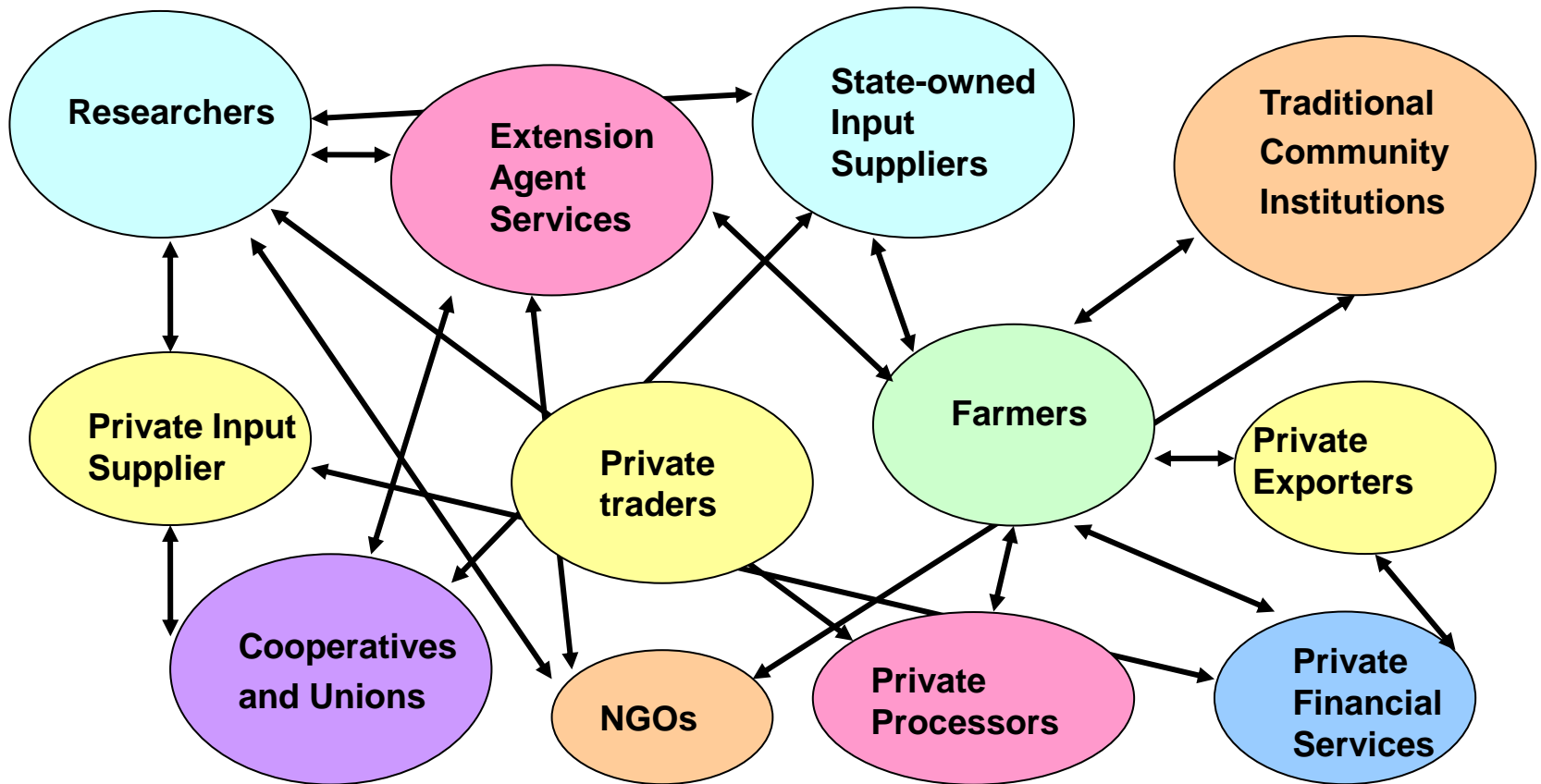
Fragile States & Peacebuilding

Democratization

From Transfer of Technology



To Agricultural Innovation Systems



What Is Extension?

- Activities providing information, services to rural families
- Strengthening technical, managerial, organizational skills
- Connecting role between rural communities, research, markets, education
- Technical/production + social/institutional support

Extension Today

- Focus on markets, value chains
- Brokering
- Widespread reforms
- Pluralism
- Need for coordination
- Private sector involvement increasing
- Use of tools such as ICTs
- Approaches such as farmer field schools, farmer-to-farmer



Photo courtesy A. Sullivan

Key Frame Conditions

- Governance & policies (registration, coordination, quality, knowledge management)
- Capacity and management (management capacity, business development skills)
- Methods and approaches (ICT, vouchers, business centers)

Areas/Approaches for Policy Research

- General research including gender analysis
- Monitoring extension data
- Innovative approaches to strengthen national systems
- Support to strategy development and policy options and advice

Research Areas

General research with gender analysis	Metrics & data	Strengthening systems	Policy options & advice
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measuring returns, cost effectiveness, sustainability• Assessing alternative approaches• Evaluating impact (gender, poverty, productivity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collection of data on investment in extension by governments, donors, private sector, civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research on innovations e.g. incentives, certification• Mentor women extensionists• Support to regional networks, country platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diagnosis and assessments of extension systems• Identify and analyze good practices