



RELASER

Red Latinoamericana para Servicios de Extensión Rural

**Workshop organized by the CGIAR Research Program on
Policies, Institutions and Markets (PIM)
Washington DC, USA**

Session 3. Regional view – Extension needs and programs

**María Isabel Paredes
October, 2013**

- **Objective of the presentation:**
Highlight extension needs in Latin America and how they are being met
- **Structure:**
 1. Needs: the traditional model of the Latin American Systems
 2. Needs: main restriction for change
 3. How the needs are being met



1. Needs: the traditional model of the Latin American Systems

- Weak links of extension with education and research
- Innovation is usually a linear model of generation, validation and technology transfer
- Scientific knowledge predominates over empiric
- Assumes that the main problem of agriculture is technological
- Public Service organized and planned without considering the results

2. Needs: main restriction for a change

- Investments on extension is limited by the weak information about its' effects and impacts
- Low conviction of governments and private sectors about the relevant role of small scale agriculture
- Not sufficient coordination on the different levels to assure the quality of the services (policy design, institutions and service providers)
- Weakness of producers organisations for identifying, organizing and negotiate with the demands
- Low decentralization of the services hinders the capacity of responding to territorial needs and demands

3. How the needs are being met

- Some countries have been able to develop and apply innovative public policies (e.g. Brazil and Mexico)
- RELASER and its' Country Forums are rising the importance of the “new extension”
- We see a positive response in the region (e.g. finishing a study of extension reforms in 14 countries of Latin America, FAO-IDB-RELASER)

Thanks for your attention

Secretaría Ejecutiva RELASER

Huelén 10, 6to Piso, Providencia. Santiago - Chile

Telf.: 56-2-236 45 57

Fax: 56-2-236 45 58

E-mail: secretariared@rimisp.org

www.relaser.org