African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services

Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services needs in SSA

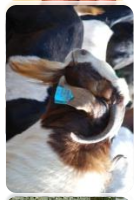
Silim M. Nahdy (PhD) – Executive Director AFAAS

Washington - USA

15th October 2013.

www.afaas-africa.org

1. AEAS in Context



Three-quarters of the world's poorest billion people live in rural areas

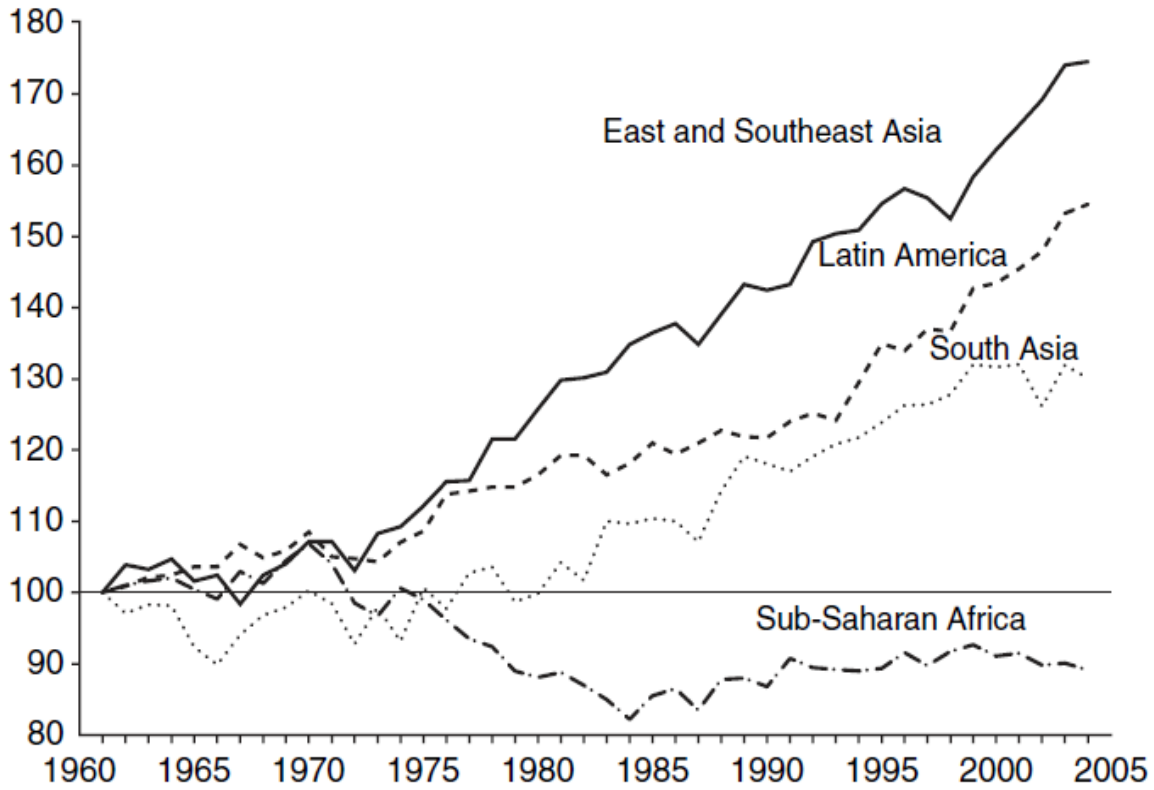
- Depend on agriculture for their livelihoods

➢ Rural poverty linked to untransformed agriculture

Context contd….

Africa's Performance in Global Development

Figure 2.1 Index of Food Production per Capita, 1961–2004
(1961 = 100)



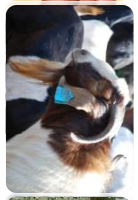
Source: FAOSTAT.

AEAS in Context ....

- AEAS play a significant role in stimulating;
  - economic Growth,
  - reducing poverty, and
  - improving food and nutrition security;

YET AEAS is inadequately emphasized and funded and with several challenges/needs

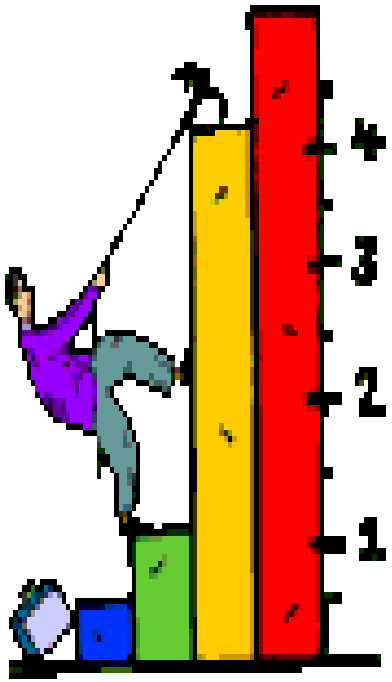
2. AEAS in SSA



Originally extension conceived as a service to "extend" research-based knowledge to rural sector to improve their livelihoods;

- Traditional - focus on increasing production, improving yields, training farmers, and transferring technology

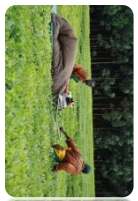
The Traditional Extension???



- **HAS BEEN SEVERERLY CHALLANGED IN THE CURRENT GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT**

Refocusing AEAS

- AEAS role evolving ……
  - based on new demands and needs



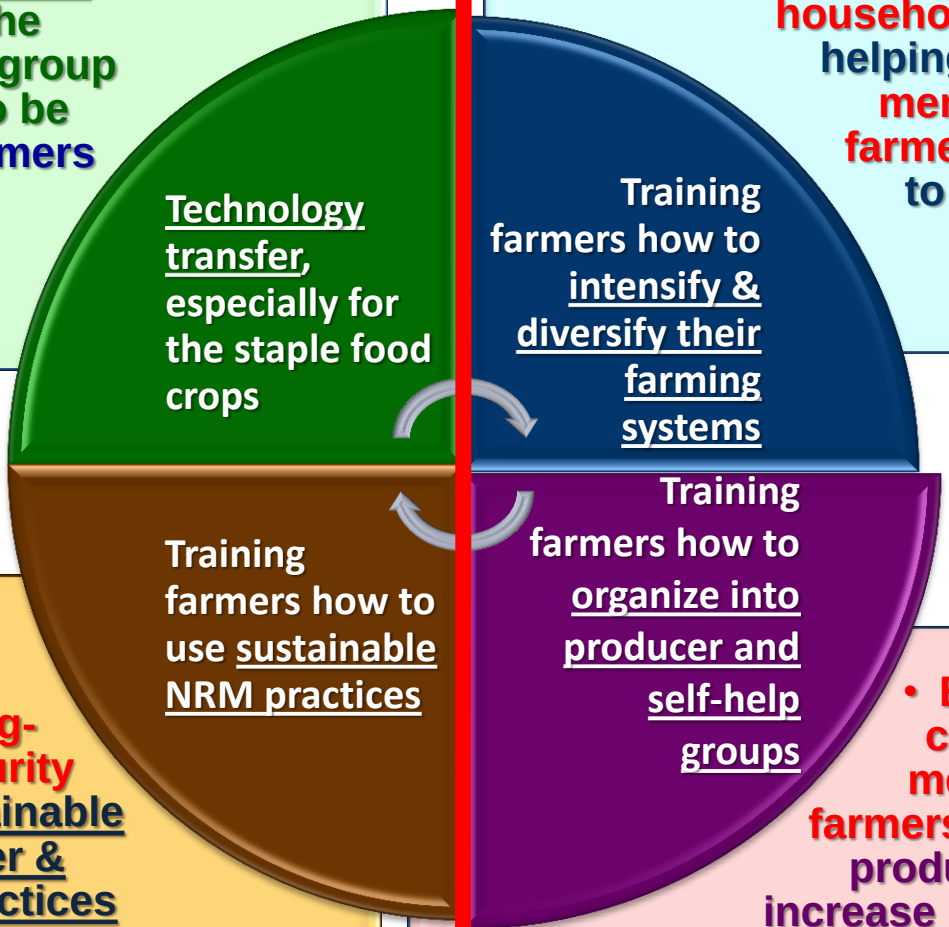
Refocusing …Comprehensive Agricultural Extension System

Maintaining National Food Security

- To achieve national food security the primary target group will continue to be small-scale farmers

Improving Rural Livelihoods

- Increasing farm-household income by helping small-scale men and women farmers learn how to produce and market high-value food products



Training rural women how to improve family nutrition and use improved family planning, hygiene and health care practices

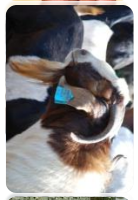
- Achieving Long-term food security by using sustainable land, soil, water & other NRM practices

- Building social capital: Helping men and women farmers organize into producer groups to increase market access & other needed services

PRODUCT INNOVATION

PROCESS INNOVATION

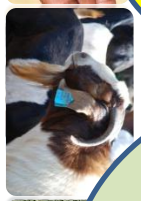
Refocusing AEAS…



- AEAS goes beyond technology transfer to facilitation; beyond training to education, and includes assisting farmer groups to form and organize, dealing with marketing and financial issues, and partnering with a broad range of service providers and other agencies

This calls for new demands and capacities on AEAS

AEAS needs in SSA



Appropriate Policies and institutional arrangements

Appropriate methods, approaches and tools (e.g ICT)

Environmental degradation and climate change

Targeting poverty and gender

Managing devolved systems and services

Supporting pluralism and Partnership

?!

Widening scope of AAES

Market Orientation

Increased Capacities (Org, Inst & Indiv)

Building Social capital

Networking at all levels

Evidence based learning and **impact**

Funding approaches

Building demand for AEAS

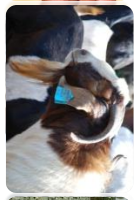
Farmers empowerment

5. Re- orientation of AEAS in SSA

AEAS weak , mainly due to many years of public neglect. However;

- Reforms are being undertaken;
  - Policies, strategies, institutions, methodologies, tools
- Use of several models for different situations
- New approaches emerging based on experimentation, learning, and adaptation
- Partnerships for varied skills and competencies emerging

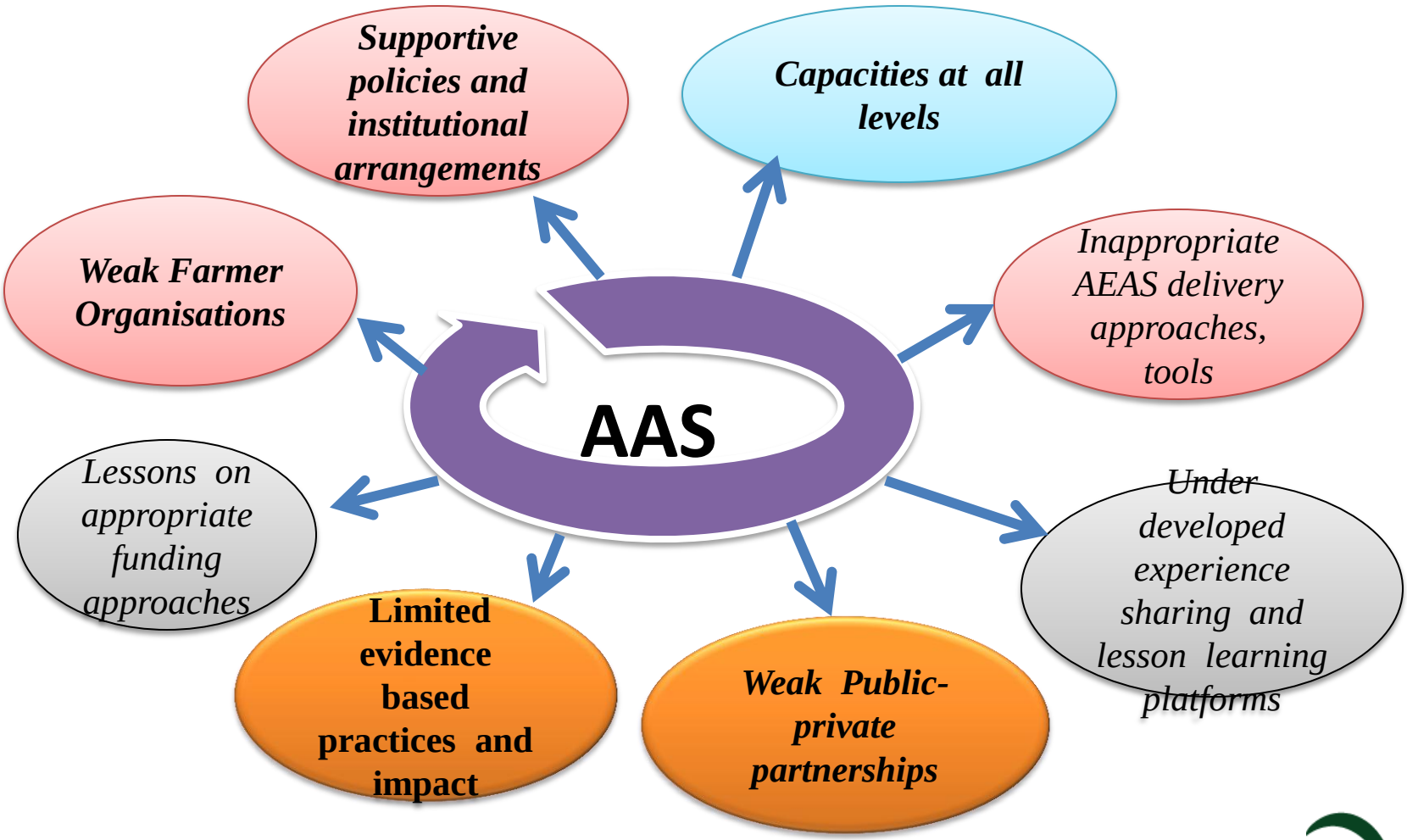
Re- orientation contd ....



Reforms include use of

- Innovations systems approach
- pluralism in service delivery
- demand-driven/participatory approaches,
- use of ICTs
- decentralization/devolution,
- privatization, contracting in and out,
- cost-sharing, fee-for service
- accountability to farmers who have role to hire and fire

AEAS Gaps


Supportive policies and institutional arrangements
Capacities at all levels
Weak Farmer Organisations
Inappropriate AEAS delivery approaches, tools
AAS
Lessons on appropriate funding approaches
Under developed experience sharing and lesson learning platforms
Limited evidence based practices and impact
Weak Public-private partnerships

Thank you

Secretariat@afaas-africa.org

http://www.afaas-africa.org

http://networking.afaas-africa.org