Agricultural Extension in South East Asia

Karen Eloisa T. Barroga
Philippine Rice Research Institute

Research on Agricultural Extension Systems: What have we learned, and where do we go from here
15-16 October 2013, Washington DC, USA
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION in SOUTHEAST ASIA: An Overview

- Of its roughly 600M population, more than 50% reside in the rural areas. Nearly 50% of the land is devoted to agriculture and grown largely to rice. Annual rate of poverty incidence reduction is 2.4%.

- In general, ag ext system is pluralistic in the mainland countries; and public sector-led in the maritime countries.

- Except for Indonesia & Philippines, the countries do not have a law supporting agricultural extension.

- Farmers’ groups abound (e.g. Indonesia, Cambodia)
Women have substantial contribution in ag ext work (e.g. 32% Viet nam; 40% Indonesia; 25% Cambodia; 20% Lao PDR).

There seems to be an increasing use of ICT for extension (i.e. Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia).

Donor-initiated extension modalities are common: many are exposed to the FFS approach.

Public funding is low, extension service remains free, while agriculture is becoming more challenging.
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION in SOUTH EAST ASIA: An Overview

peak oil
integration of sciences
climate change
dwindling natural resources
growing population
trade lib

competitive sustainable resilient
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION NEEDS and PROGRAMS in SOUTH EAST ASIA

EXTENSION WORKERS

1. Broadening, improvement of knowledge and skills
   - add/strengthen marketing, certification process (GAP), use of ICT, networking, brokering, organizing, gender sensitivity, communication & other soft skills; becoming a “versatilist”
   - technical: crop diversification, processing, health & nutrition, alternative energy sources, climate change, NRM (producing more with less), organic vs GMO

2. Professionalization
   - a career system, with corresponding incentive
   - opportunities for professional advancement/collaboration/exchange
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION NEEDS and PROGRAMS in SOUTH EAST ASIA

EXTENSION WORKERS

Philippines
– a DA-IRRI proj to prepare the next generation of rice extension professionals and other farmer intermediaries

Viet nam
– simple messages for technologies (3R 3G; 1 must, 5Rs)

Across SE Asia: nutrient manager for rice; rice/cereal knowledge bank; IRRI’s Rice Technology Transfer Systems in Asia, scholarship programs;
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION NEEDS and PROGRAMS in SOUTH EAST ASIA

EXTENSION MANAGEMENT

1. Using an extension platform/approach that best fits a locality (its people, culture, resources, gender), including technologies
   SMART farmer (Thailand); Farmer-Scientist, text center (Philippines)

2. Networking and forging sustainable partnerships
   - task/role delineation and coordination to minimize duplication, promote timely delivery (e.g. production-marketing arrangements to enhance public-private sector partnerships)
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION NEEDS and PROGRAMS in SOUTH EAST ASIA

EXTENSION MANAGEMENT

3. Fund sourcing and knowledge management
   - making plans and proposals based on reliable data
   - knowledge sharing and learning opportunities to fast track solutions to ag ext management problems, giving feedback, fine-tuning strategies/technologies and devt plans

ASEAN ICT Exchange visit program
ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Agricultural Training and Extension (AWGATE)
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION NEEDS and PROGRAMS in SOUTH EAST ASIA

NATIONAL LEVEL

1. Infrastructure investments (e.g. irrigation, power, transport, ICT esp mobile phone network)

2. Enabling laws - extension framework/policy, professionalizing extension, public-private sector partnerships, safety and quality standards

   – filing of Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Act of 2010 (Philippines); Agric, Fishery, and Forestry Extension System of 2006 (Indonesia)

3. Capacity building and merit system
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION NEEDS and PROGRAMS in SOUTH EAST ASIA

OTHERS

1. Exploring alternative pathways, other intermediaries
   – managing consumption not just production (Philippines, Indonesia); engaging city dwellers through urban agriculture; credit/service providers, input suppliers, women as intermediaries

2. Addressing disengagement from agriculture
   – agriculture not attractive to youth; preference to work overseas
     Encouraging youth to plant rice (Thailand);
     Ladderized course for OSY, Agrikool, Infomediary campaign (Philippines)

3. Impact assessment esp with ICT use