**History of Agriculture Extension and Terminology**

* **Terminology**
* The term ‘**extension**’ was first used to describe as education programme in England in the second half of the **19th Century**. When traveling teachers used the programmes to extend the work of universities beyond the campus and into neighbouring communities
* In the United State of America, applying specifically to agriculture, while in Britain the idea change to ‘**advisory service’** in the **20th**

**Arabic**: Al-Ershad (“guidance”)

**Dutch**: Voorlichting (“lighting the path”)

**French**: Vulgarisation (“popularization”)

**Spanish**: Capacitación (“training” "capacity building")

**Persian**: Tarvij and Gostaresh (“to promote and to extend”) - ترویج و گسترش

**Definition of agriculture extension**

**Maunder, 1973**: Extension is a service which assist farm people, through educational procedures in improving farming methods and techniques, increasing production efficiency and income, bettering their levels of living and lifting social and educational standards.

**Adams, 1982**: Agricultural Extension: assistance to farmers to help them identify and analyse their production problems and become aware of the opportunity for improvement.

**Röling, 1988**: Extension is a professional communication intervention deployed by an institution to induce change in behaviours.

**2006**: Extension is the process of enabling change in individuals, communities and industries involved in the industry sector and in natural resource management.

**Origins of agricultural extension**

* It is not known where or when the first extension activities took place, however, **Chinese officials** were creating agricultural policies, documenting practical knowledge, and spreading advice to farmers at least **2,000 years ago**
* About **800 BC**, the minister responsible for agriculture under one of the **Zhou dynasty** emperors organized the teaching of crop rotation and drainage to farmers. The minister also hired equipment to farmers, built grain stores and supplied free food during times of famine.
* **In Mesopotamia** (roughly, present-day Iraq) around **1800 B.C**. Archaeologists found **unearthed clay tablets** which were engraved advice on watering crops and getting rid of rats.
* Some **hieroglyphs** on Egyptian columns also gave advice on avoiding crop damage and loss of life from the Nile's floods
* The **oldest fully surviving Chinese agricultural** paper was from **535 A.D**., aimed to show landowners how to improve their estate management through the advice they gave to their tenants.

**Modern agricultural extension services**

* The first agricultural extension service of a modern kind came into presence as the result of a problem. The problem was the outbreak **of potato disease in Europe in 1845**. In **Ireland** its effects were particularly severe because the predominantly farmer population relied on potatoes in their diet, and "the potato famine" **continued until 1851.**
* **in 1847, the Earl of Clarendon**, wrote a letter to the president Agricultural Improvement of Ireland, **This letter**, was about to urge the president to appoint traveling lecturers to travel around the most troubled areas to inform and show small farmers, in simple terms, how to improve their cultivation and how to grow nutritious root crops other than potatoes.
* from the 1850s agricultural teachers (**Wanderlehrer**) began to give advices to farmers, he spent a year travelling around regions giving talks, demonstrations, and advice to farmers; and farmers' sons at winter agricultural schools.
* **University extension**" was first used by the Universities of **Cambridge and Oxford in 1867** to describe teaching activities that extended the work of the institution outside the campus.
* The beginning of the 20th century, when colleges in the United States started to do demonstrations at agricultural shows and giving lectures to farmer’s clubs.