

University of Salahaddin
College of Agriculture
Plant Protection Department



Agricultural Extension

Lecture two/2nd. stage

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2023-2024

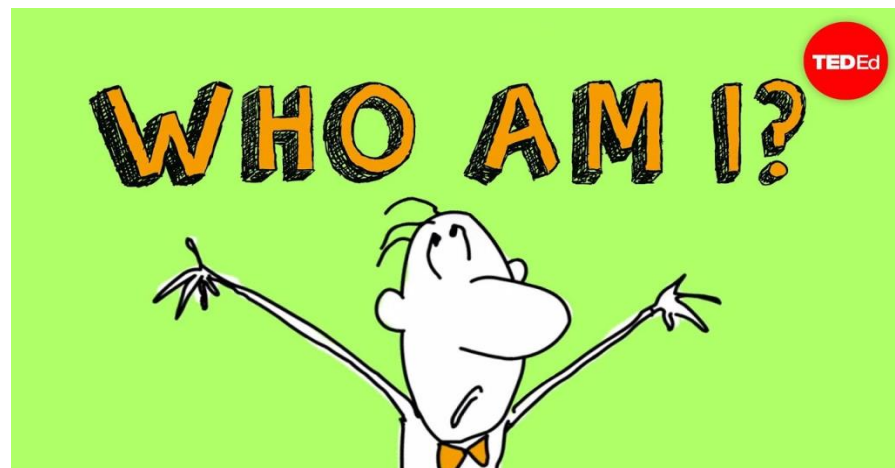
Outline

- Who is extension agent?
- Typical work activities of an extension officer.
- Where can I work as an agricultural extension officer?
- A needed skills for a successful extension agent.
- Roles and duties of extension workers

EXTENSION AGENT



Who is extension agent?



An agricultural extension agent is the person who directly works with farmers and companies related to agriculture.

The extension agent is constantly armed with the latest techniques and information related to agriculture and they relay this information to farmers and agricultural business.

Typical work activities of an extension officer:

Agricultural extension officer often provides consultation with farmers and agricultural businesses. In these **consultations**, they give talks, **guidance** and actual demonstration on the latest technologies related to agriculture and on how they can take advantage of such technologies.

Advises farmers, agricultural businesses, rural industries and government on the production, processing and distribution of farm products.

Training and education requirements?

The educational requirements for agricultural extension officer are the same for agricultural engineers.

They need to have a **bachelor's degree** related to agriculture or they can earn a degree that will lead them to agricultural engineering.

The only **difference** for agricultural extension officer is the required hands-on experience.

An agricultural extension officer has to deal with daily farming problems so they have to think fast of practical methods of dealing with these problems.

Where can I work as an agricultural extension officer?

An agricultural extension officer often works for the **government** as they work as **liaison officers** that provide additional training to farmers and agricultural businesses.

Private companies may also require the services of an agricultural extension officer as their knowledge is valuable for the development of their technology and products related to agriculture.

Non-government organizations (NGO) and related groups would also require the assistance of an agricultural extension officer in relation to their cause.

Can I work for myself in this job?

Most agricultural extension officers become private consultants if they want to be self employed. They target private institutions that require their knowledge, expertise and experience in the industry.

Other agricultural extension officers apply what they know in their own farmland.

A needed skills for a successful extension agent

1. The communicating skill and disseminating research recommendations to farmers.



2.Awareness raising skills for farmers.

3.Ability to identify extension work objectives in their work area.

4.Data collection skill of agricultural extension activities in the region.

5.Ability to record, data analyzing, and field observation.

6.How to develop the operational plan for the program of extension work.

Implementing the Operational Plan



Regular Team Meetings

Responsibility

Allocating Responsibility



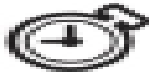
Revising Position Descriptions



Providing Training to Staff



Coaching and Mentoring



Monitoring and Measuring Systems

7. How to select extension fields of farmers

8. Selection and training of rural leaders.

9. Teamwork.



Roles and duties of extension workers at various organization levels:

1. An extension worker tries to stimulate the farmers to take interest in **identifying** their farming **problems** and also help solve their own problems.
2. To teach farmers step by step procedure to reach the goal.

3. An extension worker acts as multipurpose agent developing linkages between government on one side and farmers on other.
4. Extension worker help farmers in facing critical situation during natural calamities.
5. An extension worker tries to create awareness among farming communities about innovation and also tries to motivate them to adopt.

6. Extension worker also acts as educator for educating the various adopter categories of farmers.
7. Extension agent acts as facilitator for providing opportunity of research and learning environment for farmers to help resolve their issues.
8. Extension worker acts as catalyst between researcher and farmers to achieve ultimate goals.