

EXTENSION SERVICES AS A TOOL FOR
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGER, A
A CASE STUDY OF MOKVA LOCAL GOVT AREA

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TITLE PAGE

EXTENSION SERVICES AS A TOOL FOR
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APPROVAL PAGE

This research work has been supervised approved by my supervisor, in department of Agriculture, College of Education Minna as meeting the standard requirement for the award of Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE).

Approved by



Supervisor 10/10/10

Head of Department

DEDICATION

We dedicate this research to almighty God who has given us the opportunity of bin one of the successful students of Niger State College of Education, Minna.

We also dedicate our research to our humble supervisor in person of Mr. Emmanuel Kolo.

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We also acknowledge our families, the family of all of us for their support financially and otherwise may God grant them their heart desire.

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ABSTRACT

Food is life, because food is any thing or substance that can be consumed to eliminate hunger any program, product or policy that directly or indirectly towards hearing food production should not be left un-monitored or without evaluating its activities. Hence the study was designed to look into the activities of the performance made by Niger state Agricultural Development Extension Programme with reference to extension service in Niger, with regards to disseminating the required innovations, information that may boost farmers crops and livestock production with the aim of raising their standard of living.

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CHAPTER ONE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The word extension services in Agricultural perspectives refer to the passing down of vital information acquired on modern methods of farming and skills or techniques to the total farmers with desires to increase efficiency in Agricultural production. This could be in crop production practices like cultivation, planting, harvesting, processing, storage and marketing of these farm goods or produce.

It could also be on the area of animal husbandry where the knowledge of sanitation housing, feeding and hygiene in animal rearing could be passed to the local farmers for effective and efficiency in animal production.

Taking information translating or interpreting it to the farmers could be referred to as extension service in Agriculture.

Extension is "an organization or group of individuals

with the aims of taking information to the people to which it means". In agriculture, the information may include materials on the techniques of applying fertilizers, insecticides and vermicides to crops or introducing some improved methods of cultivation and soil conservation and planning, maintaining, harvesting and storage of crops and as improved methods of animal husbandry as well as processing and marketing agricultural products.

Extension services hoped to promote efficiency in agricultural production and development of institution to ensure the proper financing, processing, assembling, marketing and distributing the commodities produced.

Agricultural extension is the process where various techniques and result of agricultural research are passed to the local farmers.

The main purpose of extension services is to use all the valuable resources to persuade the local farmers to change from older methods to modern methods of farming.

Agricultural extension services is "that which involves helping farmers to identify, analyze and deals with the production problems". Extension on broad sense is an informal system of education, designed to help rural people which are the farmers to satisfy their needs interest and desire, specifically, extension in Agriculture is like the techniques by which improved methods of agriculture and domestics economy are masor client for extension services. It is a system of education, which involves adult learning which brings charges in behaviour.

1.2 DEFINITION OF TERMS

- **Agricultural Extension Service**: It is the process where by various techniques and result of Agricultural research are extended to rural farmers.
- **Animal Husbandry**: Is the production, care and management of livestock industry.
- **Education**: The entire process of learning where by

Rural Development:- The process of improving the socio-economic condition of rural people who resides in rural areas.

Soil Conservation:- The protection redamation and optimum use of soil while allowing only minimum waste.

Vegetation: The plan covers of a place either being densely or sparely grown trees and grasses over a piece of land.

Venture:- a business undertaking engaged by an individual or people which involves in risk taking.

1.3 GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND OF AREA UNDER STUDY

Nigeria as country of multi-ethic groups (tribes) with an estimate population of about a hundred million people. A mobility of this population in Nigeria lives in the rural areas with agriculture as their main occupation.

One of these numerous rural areas that could be in Nigeria is Niger state.

Niger state is found in latitude 90° north and longitude 90° east, it is bounded on by Kaduna, on the southern part Kwara Ilorin, in the West is bounded by Kebbi and is also bounded on the east by federal capital and state Niger has an area of 6,619 kilometers with an estimated population of about 591, 614 (base on the 1990 population project).

1.4 OCCUPATION OF PEOPLE AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

The major occupation of the people of Mokwa local government area is farming. The people are well known for farming maize, sorghum, cowpea, melon etc, during the wet and dry season. Trading is most done by settlers in the local government area not the indigenous. The indigenous have formed many farm co-operatives societies where they have benefited from government for farming.

In terms of Agriculture as occupation Mokwa local

government is blessed with fertile land for farming. There are some mechanized farms such as DEWO farm and fortune ranch and Abattior (FRA) own by individual ownership.

The agricultural production system is Mokwa is basically subsistence farming and commercial farming irrigation of some cropping and mixed farming are also of the agricultural production system mono cropping is also practice and it is where by the farmer continue to plant one type of crop annually on the farm.

1.5 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Due to mainly subsistence farming the Mokwa people have little or no scientific knowledge of crop production, hence low yield of their crops because of thus ADPS were set up by the federal government with aim of improving the agricultural knowledge of the populace and ADP extension services that is Agricultural Development program.

This project is therefore conducted so as to see to the extent to which these changes have been taken place in the populace.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The result of this investigation is expected to make Mokwa local government area people and the entire state to be aware of the roles and importance of extension services towards the development of Agriculture in rural areas.

1.7 PURPOSE OF STUDY

The research intends to carryout the research in order to:-

1. Investigate the contributions of Agricultural extension services to the development of Mokwa local government area.
2. To find out the problems of Agricultural extension services in Mokwa local government area.
3. To also find out the attitude and behaviour changes

of Mokwa local government area rural farmers towards accepting modern methods.

1.8 DELIMITATION AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The researchers has limited their study to Mokwa local government area, which has Agricultural extension workers representing the Niger state Agricultural Development Programme (NADP). It has been the wish of the researchers to extend their investigation to some areas of the local government as a whole but due to limited time to carry out the research extensively for better evaluation and assessments but lack of effective communication means has limited the research to few areas where the (NADP) operates in the local government area.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Related works has been revised with specific reference to the concepts of Agricultural extension and rural development, functions and roles of Agricultural extension in the development of rural areas coupled with problems associated with agricultural extension works, extension as an educational process was introduced in 1873 by Cambridge university England to describe a particular group of people who were dedicated to the dissemination of relevant knowledge to rural people where they lived and work within a short time, the idea had spread to other part of British, European and North Africa. Erepere and Durant J.O(1982).

2.1 THE CONCEPT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agricultural extension was defined by food and Agricultural Organization (F.A.O) as an informal out of school education services as training and influencing power to adopt improved practice in crops and livestock production, management, conservation and marketing.

It is a voluntary out of school education for adult in rural areas which is also concern changing the out look of the farmer to point where he will be receptive to and his motivative and continual seek means of improving his farm business and home.

Uguru (1987) described extension as "passing on the result of research work to the farmers, and institutions and instructing their often though demonstrations on new materials and scientific methods".

In the work of Joy Et-all (1979), "Agricultural extension is described as education meant to inform

farmers of better methods and new supplies of the farmers”.

Adams (1984:54) defined Agricultural extension as a process that involves helping farmers to identify analyse and deal with their production problems an the other hand, Akin Yosoye (1984) defined it thus “Extension education is essentially an adult educational process, brought to the rural people in their homes villages”.

The extension services according to them, found a linked and practices. He must cover information deal and better practices to farmers and policy makers of Agriculture.

Ekpere and Durent J (1986) defined Agricultural extension as “a process where well trained staff who expert in research and communication method, dissemination of information in now and better crops and livestock techniques, supply improved crop varities and livestock's breeds and teach improved methods of soil water

management, harvesting storage, utilization and marketing of these produce".

They described Agricultural extension as being three (3) facts and are as follow:-

- i) As a service which makes the government (that is the ministry) the university of voluntary agencies as useful as possible to the people who support that programme through taxes and donations.
- ii) As a discipline which deals with the behaviour of people, it is educational in concept and purpose in approach.
- iii) As a process which seeks to influence the behaviour of the rural farmers through education and information exchange.

The aim is to assist in farming livelihoods, improving the physical and the physiological levels of living of rural farmers and there by fostering rural community welfare.

The success requires on atmosphere of mental trust,

helpfulness and respect on the part of both the extension services and the rural people.

The concept of rural development, accordant to the common wealth secretarial is defined as "Comprehensive mode of social transformation which requires, that national development must have all elements of population.

It is a social or rather socio-economic process which seeks to bring about a more equitable distribution of resources to incomes within a society. It involves incomes within a society. It involves the integration of rural poor. The vast majority of the population of all developing countries into the national economic.

2.2 THE FUNCTIONS AND ROLES OF EXTENSION SERVICES

For extension service to execute his work efficiently, he deserves a sound training. According to Adden et al (1978) noted "Extension service or field assistance receive

their training from schools of Agriculture and centers. The training of a field extension service should provide him with sufficient knowledge and skills to demonstrate efficiently and effectively the following crops and animal husbandry farm machinery, Health, first aid nutrition and dietetics.

Adams (1982) holds the view that, in addition to a thorough knowledge of agriculture and practical on extension service requires a working knowledge of theoretical subjects in the field of developmental studies.

Education and management theory: He described it as necessary because the agricultural extension services is concerned with not only people. He pointed out that a basic course should teach the future extension service the following topics.

- i) The roles of agricultural extension service of different levels
- ii) The customs and traditions of farming, and with which he is going to work

- iii) The passion of agricultural extension in the over all field of rural development
- iv) The principles and practices of non-formal education for the adults and
- v) The principles of planning and managing agricultural extension.

After training of extension service to enable him/her performs his/her functions and roles he / she should possess the following qualities as enumerate by some writers whose work where reviewed.

According to Joy et-al (1979) an extension service must have many qualities which should includes:

- i) Interest in people and a desire to help others
- ii) Conviction of the value of the rural development
- iii) Sound knowledge of farming and practical ability
- iv) He must be approachable, patient, tactful and assist in passing current ideas, information, skills from both government and rural farmers to the

appropriate authorities concern.

Williams (1979) put it that "The characteristics of the agent and innovation techniques, more over are of the out most importance".

According to Nich et - al (1980) significance elements were identified which includes: personal characteristics techniques of communication, amount of participation and utilization of traditional customs. They further explained that more than technological components is needed in a change agent if he is to do a good job. Confidence in him, strong influences adoption of what he is proposing. Thus the changed agents should make every effort to be in frequent contact with the farmers to be in thoroughly knowledgeable about the techniques or innovations they are offering.

According to Williams (1979) he pointed out that "an essential functions of the extension agents is to create situations in which other learn" an the other hand,

Epkere and Dorathy J (1986) stated the functions of agricultural extension services as follows:-

Situation of farmers to try accept and use new agricultural practices.

Dissemination of research results through the development of appropriate production packages and encouraging rural farmers in their use" organization of credits, marketing and farms co-operatives of farm management advisory council services guidance and general education.

Corma et-al (1984) observed, "An extension service helps farmers increase the productivity of their farms and also improved their standard of living. He is agent viewed by them as an advisory, a technician and a middleman operating between agricultural research institution and the farmers he is more considered as changed agent.

In the works of Bernerd et al (1984) They said, "The

main activities of extension agents is to visit farmers in their fields. The following function of the extension workers are found elaborated this field visit and training.

Field visit:- the main activity of extension workers is visiting farmers must know the day of the forth night on which the villages workers (agents) is scheduling to visit their groups of individuals.

Training:- as agriculture becomes more complex, there is a continual needs for more highly trained and specialized extension workers.

2.3 AIMS OBJECTIVES AND ROLES OF EXTENSION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

According to Williams (1979), extension has three (3) main important functions.

Firstly, he said, is provide farmers to changes in developing countries he explained that it is a general knowledge known most farmer are still bound by

traditional attitudes, they are understandably afraid of costly, risk and will not take them until they are advanced that the new methods are safe will pay and will not violate their values. One the farmer comes to this relation he will plant his own seeds and looked after them by the method and it will very well help them.

The second function according to him of extension education is to transmit the result of research to the farmer and squally to the researchers to carryout this, he said will require effective communication between the researcher and research organization the extension agents and the farmers the agents should have technical knowicdge to transmits and understand the vicsws practices, help the farmers to adopt to their new condition and if failures occurs diagnosed the reasons and after solution.

The third function in his description reflected a major change in national economy and therefore is extremely important: it is to help the farmers learn, make wise

decision of farm management for the subsistence farmers, this is a major change indeed. He must learn to make decisions, if agriculture in developing countries to become increasingly productive.

In order for extension works to perform this functions, he emphasized adequate financing is essential teaching equipment supplies and other facilities are good investment, which will yield good dividends.

Moreover, the nature of work requires mobility agents are to have any effective an the farmer, the need to be constantly in touch should be emphasized. They will therefore be provided with transport facilities, without these their moral may declined and justifiable so.

According to Adout et al (1975) the main purpose of extension service is to use all available resources to persuade the idea farmer to change from old traditional methods to modern ways for better.

Successful achievement of this objective, they

maintained depends on the majority tracing and experience also tactful approach of he extension workers.

Akinsoyede (1984), observed that the main objectives of Agricultural extension are the following:

- i) To make available to the farmer information concerning new development which can be use to improve production such as fertilizer use, animal feeding techniques and breeding, improved varieties of seeds, pesticides storage and farm implements.
- ii) To establish a community life for farmers, and to improve their national level as a preventive health measure.
- iii) To teach the farmers new techniques of planting and harvesting, irrigation crops and animal production and simple soil management and conservation principles such as contour farming.
- iv) To demonstrate to farmers improved method of making things and marking and also storage better processing methods, grading and transportation.

CHAPTER THREE

This chapter describe the design of the study, the instruments used and sources of data, the nature and selection of sample procedures, techniques and methods of collecting of the data and the procedures for analyzing the data.

3.1 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES OF DATA COLLECTION

The main sources of information used for study was obtained through the help of Niger state Agricultural Development programme (NADP) extension service officer i.e Principal internal Auditor (ADP) officer in Fadama programme.

Apart from the information through the principal internal auditor Niger state Agricultural Development programme (NADP) where information were obtained through the use of books and oral interviews.

The principal internal Auditor of extension service Niger state Agricultural Development programme help a lot in the course of data collection.

3.2 **SAMPLING PROCEDURE**

For convenience and effective coverage each cell is into sub-cells. It is their cells that an E.A, extension Agent visit every fortnight with extension messages to farmers. Messages are demonstrated through the following methods.

- a. Small plot adoption techniques (SPAT)
- b. On farm adaptive research (OFAR)

In all these methods farmers participation in all practices together with E.A Extension Agents.

- c. Field days are organized for other farmers to see and adopt new skill.
- d. Each E.A Extension Agents has 10 ten control farmers in his or her cell that they work with every visit. The aim is for their farmer to teach other

- farmers skills learned from extension agents.
- e. Extension Agents recites training aver month at a designated centre in each zone i.e at (FNT centers)
 - f. Also (SMS) subject matter specialist receives training every month at monthly technology review meeting (MTRM)

3.3 PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THE CAUSE OF DATA COLLECTION

Many problems were encountered in the case of data collection among which are:

In convenience time for the extension officers to contribute their ideas for the successful of this data.

Insufficient book that can explain more about extension service in Niger state.

The researchers also faces financial problems to Agricultural programme centre for more information.

During oral interview, the farmers (peasant farmers) in

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION AND DATA ANALYSIS

4.1

NATURE OF THE DATA

The nature of the data used are collected from the response made in the questionnaire and oral interview from extension agents and peasant farmers. The general responses from extension agent farmer were satisfactory.

The presentation and analysis of the data collected from this research work are as follows:

Table : 4.1

Responses	No of respondent	Percentage
Yes	31	62%
No	19	38%
Total	50	100%

Based on the above table it can be seen that out of the 31 to 62% have no problem in accepting innovation while 19 (38%) have problem in accepting innovation.

In the local government. This denote that meeting and field days are the most successful ways of disseminating information. Small plots demonstration also is seen to be in advance than home visit plus mass address.

OBJECTIVES: to find out the extend to which extension agent have carried practical demonstration to the farmers.

Table 4.2 Haste the extension agent had, ever demonstrated on any of your farm? Numbers of farmer that give response.

Responses	No of respondent	Percentage
Yes	39	78%
No	11	22%
Total	50	100%

The above table indicate that out of the 39 (78%) agreed that extension has demonstrated new techniques to them while 11 (22%) disagreed. Responses to change as a

result of agricultural extension service in Mokwa local government. The people in the local government agreed that there is a lot of changes due to agricultural extension services which includes:

Construction of local roads by government products farmers responds to the use of new farm inputs adaptive food supply in the local government market, farmer can do well now on their own even without the assistance of extension workers.

Farmers were the opinion, that there has been great application (use). Another group of ten (10) people (farmers) there is easy usage of fertilizer and other chemical by farmers there is also a reduction of high labour by the use of modern implements.

Objective: to find out the personal problems encountered by extension agent. In carrying out their duties in Mokwa local government area.

Table: 4.3 To determine weather the gent are sufficient to cover the area or not.

Responses	No of respondent	Percentage
Yes	11	39%
No	17	61%
Total	28	100%

Out of the 28 agents that respondent 17 (61%) said that agricultural extension agents are insufficient.

It is clear that more young men are involved in the extension service than older ages

Objective: recommendation on the agricultural extension agent in Mokwa local government area.

Table 4.4 is their any need for agricultural extension or to dermine weather there is need for agricultural extension agents.

Responses	No of respondent	Percentage
Yes	41	82%
No	9	18%
Total	50	100%

It could be observed from the above table out of the 50 farmers interviewed, all respondent the need for extension agent while 9 (18%) did not recommended their use.

Attitude to change in the Agricultural activities by rural farmers of the local government due to the operation of extension services. There is a lot of improvement as a result extension services to the rural farmer of Mokwa local government area, in the area of fertilizer use, organized meeting for discussions, use of chemical forestation and erosion control. There is also close communication gap between agents and farmers than before and some have started adopting new techniques taught to them. They are now walking up to innovation and development cordial

relationship with extension workers and within them selves.
Objective 4.5 To confirm whether there is improvement in farmers productivity when compared to the previous years. Table 5.1 is their any improvement in farm productivity? Or source of information other than agricultural extension agent.

Responses	No of respondent	Percentage
Yes	48	96%
No	2	4%
Total	50	100%

With regard to the above table there is improvement in farmer productivity since (40) to (96%) responded positively while only 4% gave negative response. In conclusion the data were randomly collected.

The problem encountered by the extension agents in Mokwa local government area are due to lack of mobility, slow pace of adoption and language barrier in the effective means of disseminating information.

Mokwa local government area found it difficult to understand simple English because 80 percent of them were Nupe by tribe except these from mile five (ABU Quarters)

Inconvenience time for the researchers to carry out the research work efficiently, because of their academic activities.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.1 SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

From the above findings, one could take aside that extension service has brought attitudinal change as well as infrastructural developments in Mokwa local government.

From all analysis in chapter IV it is clear that the activities of the Niger Agricultural Development Programme (NADP) through the extension agents have greatly change the activities of farmers towards modern agricultural activities. These changes were as a result of methods used in disseminating information to the farmers. There is increased turn out for meeting and field days by rural farmers nowadays there is a closed communication gap between agents and farmers that before.

Chapter four (iv) revealed the methods used to disseminate information by the various respondents to the agents in the course of executing their duties or functions has indicated that they inform farmers through individual

farmers visits, it is also revealed that information is passed to farmer through small plot demonstration, one of them indicated that he visits farmer through small plot demonstration, one person as well indicated that he has improved from farms through mass media addressing publically.

The respondents extension officer indicated that visits to rural farmers are regular, sometimes daily or fortnightly or at least four (4) times a year.

However, these visits are hindered by a lot of variables, such variable includes mobility, slow pace of adaptability language barrier, reluctant from farmers and poor attendance at council meetings.

The rural farmers have derived some benefits from extension service such as agricultural loan, access of fertilizers and other farm inputs. While some rural farmers have been provided with some rural infrastructures in the area as a result of the extension service, farmers have

acquired modern techniques of farming from the extension workers and are up to date applying these acquires techniques.

5.4 TEST OF HYPOTHESIS

The research hypothesis were:-

- i. There were great changes in the attitudes and behaviour towards farming by farmers in local government.
- ii. There are structural developments in Mokwa local government due to the activities of extension worker.

Recommendations

In view of the above encountered problems by rural farmers in the local government, which includes the shortage of fertilizer modern farming machines, water resources for dry season farming, Livestock rearing drinking, insufficient number of agricultural extension

workers, herbicides and insecticides.

It is the view of the researcher having learn and hard the problems of rural farmers to recommend that:

- a. The local government should endeavour to derive a means of providing enough fertilizers to rural farmers at cheapest rate and within the reach of the rural farmers. This mean every village should have a fertilizer setting stores to reduce the hardship faced by rural farmers at the moment.
- b. The government should buy and send to each of the zones in the local government, a reasonable number of tractors to serve the needs of the rural farmers who are high need to them.
- c. Government should build and expend water reservoirs or Dams to enhance dry season farming, livestock rearing and healthy living of the villager and general populace in each of the zones in the local government.

- d. Large plumber of Agricultural extension workers should be trained and said to each villages in the zone so that they can guide and educate farmers.
- e. Government should build storage facilities in the local government, to enable preserve a large amount or number of agricultural production got in that area. This goes along in making the area and the local government area of large sufficient in agricultural production it is the view of the research that in implanting these areas recommended or suggested will go along to improve the status of the local government and even the state.

5.4 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

From the above information collected and analysis in

chapter four (4) it is easy to carry the message here tracing back to the hypothesis of this research.

The first hypothesis state that there is greater changes in attitude and behaviour towards faced by farmer in the local government.

This is true because no wards many farmers in local government are now cager to seek expert information from the extension workers. And as seen in chapter four (4) many farmers have changed their ways of farming because of the information given to them by the extension agent (workers) whom might have been taught by extension worker; hence developing positive attitude towards agricultural or farming by farmer in local government.

The only problems is that the services of extension agents in Mokwa local government are still demanding.

In summary therefore, a result of agricultural extension services a lot good have been done for the rural populace of local government, this range from setting up of

ministry in the Niger state Agricultural Development programme (NADP) which is saddled with the responsibilities of educating the populace, providing fertilizers and other farm inputs to the rural populace and also in giving out loans.

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