Agricultural extension to attain changes in practices

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What are agricultural extension services? Role and mission
What approaches do countries use? Case study of Argentina INTA
What challenges are faced and how are these overcome?
8th Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity

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There are different kind of extension services in Argentina

Private

University

Public-Private

Public
  Ministry of Agroindustry
Public Ministry of Agroindustry
About INTA

The National Institute of Agricultural Technology:
- Is a decentralized and autharchic public organization
- Founded in 1956
- Depends on Ministry of Agroindustry

After 2003 it started a period of institutional redefinitions in strategies and planning, with the objective to strengthen the role of INTA as a public organization.
Public
Ministry of Agroindustry
INTA's Extension Service Mission

Rural extension services should enable innovation processes for territorial development with social inclusion and environmental sustainability, with the objective of improving livelihoods of farmers.

This is possible through strengthening capacities of all the actors in territory and by promoting knowledge sharing and inter institutional and collective actions (INTA).
Extension service Role

• Co construct extension services strategies with communities to enable innovation
• Foster economic development (focus on added value)
• Build networks
• Manage Knowledge
• Manage and implement Public policies
INTA's Approach

"Model of development with social inclusion: technology, innovation and organization for competitiveness and social equity"

Innovation

“…Innovation is the result of a collective process where diverse actors interact and produce knowledge …”
INTA uses a wide criterion of innovation, aimed to the creation of new or improved processes and products “that encourage social and economic development”.

Territorial Development

INTA defines Territorial Development as a social process, promoted by actors in territory, that seek to guarantee the local capacities to strengthen socio-institutional schemes and economic-productive systems with the objective to improve the life quality in communities (INTA, 2007).
INTA's APPROACH

To foster innovation we design Regional Projects focused on territorial development (Prets). They are planned involving 4 institutional strategic components.
INTA is the only LatinAmerican Institution that integrates EXTENSION and RESEARCH in the same organization.

Integrated activities of extension and research make possible to dialogue with diverse actors in territory in order to enable knowledge flow in an iterative and constructive way.
INTA's SYSTEM

Head Office
15 Regional Centers
50 Experimental Stations
6 Research Centers
22 Institutes
350 Extension Agencies

2 Private organizations:

Our extension agencies cover the same distance that exists between MOSCOW and MADRID
Extension service
900 professionals
300 technicians

Work and offer the following services:
• technical advisory
• learning and training

In some places, INTA is the only public organization present in territory and with professional capacities
OUR STRATEGY

NATIONAL PROGRAMS

PROFEDER

REGIONAL PROJECTS WITH TERRITORIAL PERSPECTIVE (PRET)

INNOVATION PLATFORMS DESIGNED WITH COMMUNITY (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT)
PROFEDER

Program in territory
PROFEDER’S TOOLS

Pro Huerta (financed by the Social Development Ministry)

Projects for crofter producers (MINIFUNDIO)

Projects for family producers (ProFam)

Rural Change Programme (financed by the Agroindustry Ministry)

Projects for Supporting Local Development (PADL)

Integrated Projects
PRO HUERTA
Vulnerable population
INTEGRATED PROJECTS

Added value in chains
MINIFUNDIO – Crofter producers
PROFAM - Family producers
Rural Change
Small and Medium Companies - capitalized producers
The objective of this tools is to assist in reproduction modes, strengthen rural population organization and work on inequity

Asymmetries can be corrected with territorial based public policies in order to foster strong alliances within community aimed to facilitate transformation and strengthening of economic and social organization

The State has the responsibility to respond to population demands.
we have more than 780,000 family, school and community orchards
What challenges are faced and how are these overcome?

In many communities problems exceed the productive and technological issues

- Access to water and land
- Organizational
- Communitarian problems (infrastructure and services)
- Commercialization
- Financing access
- Popular Communication
- Gender
- Productive
- Added Value
- Etc.

Biodiversity and other relevant issues do not arise explicitly as a demand
Paradox:
We need to respond to demands which in many cases are satisfying human rights.
But ALSO we need to look ahead, work in relevant issues such as climate change, biodiversity, desertification, and other. Eventhough they DO NOT EMERGE AS DEMANDS.

We also consider that family farmers are fundamental for biodiversity care, and they know its importance because they depend on it for their living.
How do we face the challenges?

Launching new forms to plan participative projects that integrate a new approach:

- climate change adaptation
- desertification
- biodiversity
- gender perspective
- conflict

Our goal is to upgrade our projects' quality with focus in 2 aspects
PROFEDER

EXTENSIONIST PROFESSIONAL ROLE AS A DEVELOPMENT AGENT

The role exceeds offering technical assistance

Professionals must be able to analyze complex local situations and manage problems and demands for facilitating solutions
Extensionist Role as a community development facilitator

FROM:
understanding the system

TO:
facilitate the system to understand itself

A system can change only from inside

Peter, H (2008) “Guia del enfoque EPAM”
Focus on

INCLUSION OF ALL DEMANDS

Focus on problems, needs and satisfaction of rights.

Especial attention to the social equity, as a way of fairness access to resources and opportunities.
Thank you