



Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services GFRAS

Next steps:

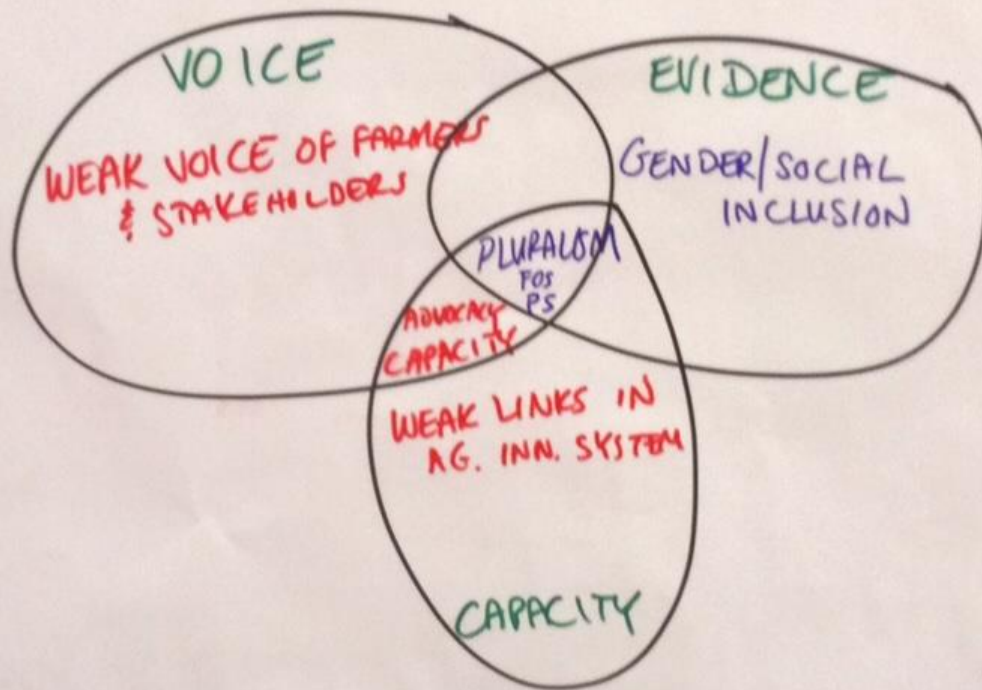
**Global Good Practices Initiative
and GFRAS Annual Meeting**

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2016-2020



GFRAS ACTION

- POLICY COMPENDIUM
- ADVOCACY TRAINING
- POLICY DIALOGS



GFRAS ACTION

- GENDER EQUALITY WORKING GROUP
- ICT4RAS INTEREST GROUP
- GLOBAL GOOD PRACTICES

GFRAS ACTION

- CONSORTIUM ON EXTENSION EDUCATION & TRAINING
- NEW EXTENSIONIST LEARNING KIT

Global Good Practices Initiative

- Initiated by GFRAS partners to provide a knowledge platform for RAS practitioners
- Collection of systematised theoretical and practical know-how and experiences
- Easily accessible and usable form as a public good

gfras KIT **giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH **BMZ** Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz

GFRAS GOOD PRACTICE NOTE FOR EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES

NOTE 1: Innovation Platforms

Compiled by: Helena Posthumus and Mariana Wongschowski

There is plenty of information available in the public domain that covers various aspects of extension and advisory services. However, this information is often scattered and presented in complex academic language. Hence practitioners, who often have very limited time and/or may only have basic formal education, find it difficult to make use of this information.

The Global Good Practices Initiative aims to bridge this gap by providing information about extension approaches and methods in easy-to-understand formats. As part of this effort, it makes "Good Practice Notes" available on a downloadable website. This Note contains one of the extension methods included in this series.

Introduction
 Farmers, agri-business and service providers innovate continuously to adapt to an ever-changing environment (including markets, climate and location) into practice, and in this way changing the lives of those living in this area for the better. This can be a new way of irrigating a field (i.e. a technical innovation), a new way of organizing women farmers to build a new way of organizing women farmers to build produce (i.e. an organizational innovation), or a that supports smallholders in getting bank loans (i.e. an institutional innovation). In agriculture, innovation involves a combination of these different types of innovation. For example: a new way of diverting water to fields requires that the farmers organize themselves in associations, which must in turn be supported by authorities.

Innovation is stimulated when multiple actors (farmers, NGOs, service providers, traders, agro-dealers, researchers, policy makers) interact and share their knowledge and opinions to come up with new solutions. Innovation platforms can be used by advisory services and other actors as a means to bring different actors together to discuss and negotiate collective or coordinated action.

Philosophy and principles
 Innovation platforms are made up of various actors who communicate, co-operate and share tasks to carry out activities needed for innovation to take place.¹ There are a few principles that are important:
 • Diverse composition of stakeholders.

1. Nedelhof ES, Wongschowski M, Lee F van der. 2011. Putting heads together: A guide for innovation platforms. http://www.giz.de/DE/Projekte/2011/11/11_11_innovation_platforms.pdf

Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) www.gfras.org

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GFRAS GOOD PRACTICE NOTE FOR EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES

NOTE 2: Farmer Field Schools (FFS)

Compiled by: Mona Dhamankar and Mariana Wongschowski

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Introduction
 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) are a participatory learning approach that teaches farmers to solve problems independently. FFS groups are formed without walls, in FFS groups, farmers work with a facilitator, observe, and learn together. Farmer field schools were originally used in the rice growing areas of Indonesia. The approach that teaches farmers to solve problems independently, without walls, in FFS groups, with a facilitator, observe, and learn together. Farmer field schools were originally used in the rice growing areas of Indonesia. The approach that teaches farmers to solve problems independently, without walls, in FFS groups, with a facilitator, observe, and learn together. Farmer field schools were originally used in the rice growing areas of Indonesia.

1. Washington, H. and Howard White, 2014. London, International Initiative for Impact Assessment

gfras Mercy Corps **Agri-Fin Mobile**

GFRAS GOOD PRACTICE NOTE FOR EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES

NOTE 3: Mobile-based "bundled" services: Example of Agri-Fin Mobile

Compiled by: Carol Kakooza

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Introduction
 Smallholder farmers in developing countries face a number of challenges that impact their productivity and contribution to food security. These include lack of access to financial services (credit, savings, and micro-insurance) and limited access to rural advisory services. Over the years, there have been efforts to address these challenges to improve smallholder farmer productivity and contribution to food security. However, the lives of smallholder farmers have not significantly improved because financial services have not been addressed while rural advisory services have been addressed together. Mercy Corps has addressed these challenges by providing a mobile-based, accessible, and integrated financial and advisory services package. This Note contains one of the extension methods included in this series.

Agri-Fin mobile program
 The Mercy Corps Agri-Fin mobile program provides a "bundled" of advisory and financial services plus market information to the smallholder farmer via the mobile phone. Through this approach, the programme brings together players including banks, mobile network operators, smallholder farmer aggregators, rural advisory service providers, and platform hosting and content managers to build a comprehensive suite of services that addresses all the farmers' constraints together. By using a new strategy called bundled services, the programme joins products and services together to provide a single combined unit on the mobile phone.

Philosophy and principles
 The bundled services, three key principles centre on partnerships for development.

**Do you have a good practice to share?
 Contact us!**

6th GFRAS Annual Meeting

Central instrument of GFRAS to

- foster exchange on rural advisory services (RAS) between stakeholders and across regions
- strengthen networks
- discuss GFRAS strategic directions and functioning

6th GFRAS Annual Meeting

Dates

15 – 17 September 2015

Side Events

14 and 18 September 2015

Venue

Hotel Karven and Hotel Raduga, Issyk Kul,
Kyrgyzstan

6th GFRAS Annual Meeting

General heading

Global Good Practices

Objectives

- Exchange and gain a range of new ideas, methods, and instruments to improve rural advisory services
- Elaborate a common understanding of general features of good practices in rural advisory services
- Exchange measures and instruments to improve and strengthen the functioning of RAS networks and fora

6th GFRAS Annual Meeting

Structure and participants

- International and interactive workshop
- Divided in three parts
 - Content exchange
 - Field trip
 - Network strengthening
- Reaching the millions! results will feed into it
- Limited to 150 participants

Thanks