



Regional Workshop on Options of Reform in Agricultural Extension in the Near East

2 – 4 October, 2004, Amman, Jordan

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Regional Office for the Near East in collaboration with Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (CARDNE) is organizing a regional workshop on “**Options for Reform in Agricultural Extension in the Near East**”, to be held in Amman, Jordan, from 2 – 4 October, 2004.

The meeting will set the light on challenges facing agricultural extension in view of global and regional political, economic and environmental changes affecting the agricultural sector in general and farmers’ livelihoods and food security in particular. The focus will be on the broader scope, evolving role and new partnerships for extension, which call for an overall review of extension mandate, approaches and partnerships with other governmental and non-governmental institutions in contact with farmers.

In this regard, global developments in agricultural extension will be considered, as well as viable reform options being introduced worldwide. Special emphasis will be on promising reform initiatives undertaken by various countries and important lessons learnt there from.

The workshop will also examine a regional study on agricultural extension systems in the Near East, commissioned by FAO Regional Office for the Near East, in collaboration with the Agricultural Extension and Rural Development Research Institute (AERDRI), Egypt. The study collected, reviewed and analyzed data and available information on extension systems in the Region. The report provides an overview of extension systems in the Region and serves as a background for discussion of reform options in light of socioeconomic and cultural needs of the countries. In this context, an electronic database on extension systems in the Near East will be launched, which would serve as a springboard for networking, compiling and sharing experiences on agricultural extension in the Region.

The workshop will also provide a forum for discussions and sharing valuable experiences among participants through country presentations by respective participants and working group sessions. Working group sessions are planned to facilitate interaction, sharing of views and experiences among participants. During these sessions, participants will discuss key issues raised during the workshop in light of their countries’ needs and realities. The outcome would be a set of recommended actions for extension institutions

and partner agencies towards review, assessment and reform of agricultural extension systems to enhance their capacity in addressing the needs of farmers and ensure active contribution to sustainable rural and agricultural development.

Workshop Objectives:

- To set the light on challenges facing agricultural extension institutions and the need to adopt new approaches and partnerships;
- To update participants on global developments in agricultural extension and promising initiatives in extension reform;
- To provide a forum for discussion and experience sharing among senior extension officials from participating countries.
- To critically examine the present national extension systems and identify the entry points for various reforms
- To formulate a set of recommended actions for extension institutions and partner agencies towards review, assessment and reform of agricultural extension systems to enhance their capacity in addressing the needs of farmers and ensure active contribution to sustainable rural and agricultural development.

Participants attending this regional workshop are: Directors of extension and senior extension officers from Near East countries, plus representatives from international and regional organizations active in the field of extension and rural development. In addition, participants will include extension experts, representatives from universities, NGOs and farmers' organizations from the host country.

Expected participating countries are: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Tunisia, Yemen and Palestinian Territories.

FAO Officers responsible for the event:

- Ms. May Hani, Extension, Education and Communication Officer, FAO Regional Office for the Near East, Cairo (E-mail: May.Hani@fao.org ; Telephone: 20 2 331-6172).
- Mr.. Kalim Qamar, Senior Officer (Agricultural Training and Extension), FAO Headquarter, Rome (E-mail: Kalim.Qamar@fao.org; Telephone: 39 06 57054203).



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Provisional Programme

Saturday, 2 October

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| 09:00 – 09:30 | Registration |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | Opening Plenary Session (Statements by MOA, CARDNE and FAO) |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Coffee Break |
| 10:30 – 13:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introduction of participants- Presentation of workshop objectives and programme- Agricultural extension in the Near East: challenges and opportunities (May Hani, FAO).- Global developments in agricultural extension and options for reform (M. Kalim Qamar, FAO)- Discussion |
| 13:00 – 14:30 | Lunch Break |
| 14:30 – 17:00 | Overview of extension systems in the Near East: A regional study (M. Shaker)
Launching of E-Database of extension systems in the Near East (M. Kassem)
Discussion |

Sunday, 3 October

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| 9:00 – 10:30 | Experiences from Member Countries (Country presentations) |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee Break |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | Experiences from Member Countries (Country presentations) |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |

- 14:00 – 15:30 Working Groups Session I (Based on country presentations, identification of specific aspects in national extension systems for reform)
- 15:30 – 16:30 Plenary presentation of conclusions by Working Groups Session I, followed by discussion (*Coffee to be served during the session*)

Monday, 4 October

- 09:00 – 10:30 Working Groups Session II (Based on the conclusions of Session I, outlining of regional reform strategies and needed actions for putting reforms into action)
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 12:30 Plenary presentation of conclusions by Working Groups Session II, followed by discussion
- 12:30 – 13:30 The way forward – Recommend actions and wrapping up