

Knowledge Management in CACILM II Project

Component 3 Utilization of knowledge in a dialogue on issues of strategies' development .

Leader:

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1. History of Rural extension services in the Soviet period

- Before 1990, there was a socialist economic system. Kyrgyz SSR was a part of USSR and had more than **460** sovkhoses, col. farms, breeding farms, seed nurseries, etc.
- All farms had highly qualified agricultural specialists incl. agronomists, veterinarians, zootechnicians, etc.
- Peasant farmers and shepherds mainly worked in col. Farms and sovkhoses. At that time, there was not the term of extension services for peasants and shepherds. There was only an agency of specialists' capacity building.
- In Kyrgyzstan, there were more than **1,200 ha** of cultivated cropland owned by col. Farms and sovkhoses. There was enough agricultural machinery for farming.

1. History of Rural extension services in the Soviet period

- Both crop and livestock production was supervised by specialists who graduated from universities, mainly agricultural. Work followed the five year plan.
- Chief specialists also had higher education. Shepherds and peasant farmers were selected from those who finished school education in the village. They carried out their functions following the chief specialists' instructions.
- Farm activity followed command-administrative, bureaucratic methods.
- Only a limited number of people had an access to the economic indicators such as costs/benefits. Most part of the population was not interested in such issues.

2. Development of Rural extension services after independence in Kyrgyzstan

- Share of agriculture in total GDP in Kyrgyzstan is within 37-39% (as of 2012).
- In Kyrgyzstan, there are more than 360 thousand private peasant farms.
- On average, each peasant farm has 2.7 ha of cultivated land after land privatization.
- Rural population experiences real shortage in knowledge and skills for farming in the market economy conditions.
- In 1999 Government of Kyrgyzstan with the support of World Bank, MFSR, and the Government of Switzerland established public foundations, Chuy and Talas Rural Extension Service Agencies (RESA)
- Chuy RESA based in Bishkek city (staff: 9 people + 3 consultants in districts)
- For entire period of operation, Public foundation "Chuy-Talas" RESA reached 92% of all villages in Chuy and Talas provinces.
- Annually, under support of this agency more than 8-9 thousand of rural clients acquire knowledge and skills leading to more successful and profitable farming and other businesses in rural areas under current market economy conditions.
- About 60% of beneficiaries are women.

2. Development of Rural extension services after independence in Kyrgyzstan

- In 2000-2002 six independent RESA Public foundations were established (Batken, Chuy-Talas, Issyk-Kul, Jalal-Abad, Naryn, Osh), operating in 40 districts, covering 75% of local administration offices and with total number of beneficiaries reaching 50,000 farmers in entire country.
- RESA selectively offer additional services through the associated (cooperating) enterprises. These services include trainings, personal and group consultations, provision of agricultural crop seeds and livestock breeds, fertilizers, veterinary agents, loans, equipment and machinery as well as marketing of the farmer enterprises in a raw and processed form.
- Major topics of consultations is improving yields, restoration of the soil fertility, livestock productivity, processing and marketing of agricultural products as well as other issues of the poor rural population.
- RESA consultants help farmers to prepare and write business plans to obtain loans.
- Public Foundation started operation in 2002 as Consulting and Training Center RESA.
- The center's activities included promotion of rural development through organization of trainings and provision of the corresponding information.
- Regional RESA centers and other organizations directly working with farmers are the major target group of the center
- The center played an important role in collection of information, adapting of consultants' and farmers' needs, its dissemination through mass media, trainings and workshops, library and electronic means.
- Center's training workshops were held on such topics as livestock production, agronomy, processing, marketing, and economics of farming, methodology of the consulting agency as well as specific topics ensuring baseline knowledge and skills of clients and partners.
- "Training Center for Consulting and Innovation" – training and resource center providing capacity building services as well as information and training materials.

Newspapers, magazines and brochures providing extension services for farmers.

#	Name	Available information
1.	Sugar beet (brochure)	- Sugar beet in crop rotation - Importance of quality seeds - Preparation of soil - Norms and periods of fertilizer application - Planting and treatment of crops, etc.
2	Manual for farmers on livestock production (brochure)	- Basics on agricultural animals - Breeding work - Types of forage and basic feeding - Feed preparation and storage technology - Increasing productivity of agricultural animals
3	Tee burchak (brochure)	- Biological characteristics of haricot - How to grow haricot - Agrotechnology - About pests and diseases - Methods of disease prevention and treatment

Continued

1	Water, land, people (newspaper)	- Publishes various articles on water, land, etc.
2	Agro-news (informational and advertising newspaper)	- Issues of agrarian sector development in Kyrgyzstan
3	Ayl demi (newspaper in Kyrgyz language)	- Useful recommendations for farmers of Kyrgyzstan
4	Bazar Tamyr (newspaper in Kyrgyz language)	- Information on agricultural product markets and market prices
5	New farmer (monthly magazine)	- It is about horticulture, gardening, crop production, poultry, zoo technology and livestock production, veterinary, rabbit production, beekeeping, etc.
6	Periodical informational newsletter on the state of food security in Kyrgyzstan	- Analysis and assessment of food security in Kyrgyzstan considering world food prices

3. Preliminary results of the conducted survey of RESA

- Survey the institutions providing agricultural advisory services (AAS) to small farms conducted in 3 provinces (Batken, Jalal-Abad, Chuy). In these provinces, 11 consultants and managers were interviewed.
- List of the interviewed:
 1. Sattarov (Batken RESA)
 2. Mataev, (Batken RESA)
 3. Isakov (Batken RESA)
 4. Zholdoshev (Jalal-Abad. RESA)
 5. Kerimov (Jalal-Abad. RESA)
 6. Nurdinov (Jalal-Abad. RESA)
 7. Turgunbaev (Jalal-Abad. RESA)
 8. Berdaliev (Chuy RESA)
 9. Karbozov (Chuy RESA)
 10. Zhooshev (Chuy "Training Center for Consulting and Innovation")
 11. Eshperov (Chuy "Training Center for Consulting and Innovation")

For first 5 questions all consultants replied similarly that they work in a private company, that there was no RESA, and that their agencies were established in 1999 and 2002.

- **How many branches of your institution offer AAS for farmers and households?**
 - A) PhDs – 2 (males), B) Masters - 67 incl. 44 males and 23 females.
 - C) Certified – 43 including 31 males, 12 females. D) Not certified - none.
- **Please list the major sectors for which AAS are provided**
 - Livestock, crop, irrigation, SLM, marketing, gardening, greenhouses, etc.
- **For how many farmers/households AAS are provided annually?**
 - On average, each consultant trains 200 to 450 farmers and 900 to 1,600 households.
- **What percentage of the farmers/farm households that you visit are women headed households (approximate guess is fine)?**
 - From 15 to 47% are women headed .
- **Please list the strengths of your extension services**
 - A) Reliability (87%), b) Interest of farmers to provided extension services (more than 60%).

Please list the weaknesses of your farm advisory services

- A) Not covering all territories (69%) b) remoteness of RESA from several districts. I.e. there is a need in RESA branches (60%). c) He неосвещенности of the old shepherds (about 15%), etc.
- **How can your organization enhance quality of AAS?**
 - A) timely provision of needed info (75%), b) organizing of workshops (over 80%), c) attract youngs (45%), d) Improve analysis of farmers' issues (54%).
- **How does the advisory service conduct its planning?**
 - Monthly and annually (about 85%)
- **When?** Upon request (70%)
- **Who is involved?** Managers (75%), Experts (20%).
- **Where does your extension dpt get information about innovations (technologies, approaches, knowledge in general)?**
 - From Internet, RESA, Training Center for Consulting and Innovation, NGOs and other sources (more than 70%).
- **How does your extension dpt acquire or enhance their own capacity in order to be "on the wave" of new developments?**
 - Participation in trainings and workshops conducted by Training Center for Consulting and Innovation by NGOs (65%)
- **How are topics, clients, regions, chosen?**
 - Based on request of local farmers (more than 70%)
- **What methods are used for information dissemination?**
 - a. advertizing on TV (more 60%) b. through website / Internet (less than 30%) c. Radio (35%) d. Newspapers (60%) e. farmers associations (40%) f. through district administrations (10%) g. through community leaders (35%).

Who is financing the extension service (government, private sector, farmers, etc)?

- a) State bodies (-), b) farmers (55%), n) donors (over 30%), self-financing (15%).
- **How are consultants paid?**
 - a. Fixed salary (-) b. based on the work done (over 90%)
- **Do you charge a fee for your service to the farmer/farm household? a. Yes (-) b. No (85%)**
- **What is the average (approximate) fee paid by the farmer/farm household per visit?**
 - From 100 Soms to 200 Soms (the majority refused, only 10% paid).
- **What are the main 3 challenges for the development of your extension services?**
 - a) Poverty (65%), b) Climate/natural conditions (over 50%), c) Small number of donors (less than 30%).
- **Can you suggest solutions for the issues mentioned in the previous question?**
 - a. Attract investments, donors (over 60%) b. Trainers' knowledge abroad (20%) c. To timely collect info on climate (70%).
- **How does the extension service today (public, private, NGO etc.) compare to the service provided by the state during the Soviet Union (for the answer given please provide a very short sentence on why you feel this way)?**
 - a. Better Private (about 95%)
 - b. the same -
 - c. Worse -
 - d. Impossible to compare as there were different systems (more than 80%).

Thank you for attention!