

University of Hohenheim

Institute for Social Sciences of the Agricultural Sector

Department of Rural Communication and Extension



**Master Thesis related to the module
“Rural Communication and Extension”**

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**The Agricultural knowledge and Information System in
Karagwe District-Tanzania**

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6 Summary

In spite of the fact that the extension system in Tanzania has been changing over years since pre-independence period, the system has failed to address its potentiality of increasing agricultural production and productivity. Contributions by private sectors, CBOs and NGOs seem to have failed to respond adequately to the needs of different categories of farmers. Efforts made by the government including research institutions and NGOs to improve the generation and dissemination of improved agricultural technologies have not yielded significant results. As consequence farmers have failed to improve their households food security and family income and hence poverty alleviation.

Insuring effective coordination, support services, strong research-extension-farmers linkage are the major challenges for effective AKIS in Karagwe District. Due to the mentioned weaknesses this study is trying to look at what is particular with the AKIS in Karagwe district .This study is giving an overview for understanding factors that affect the flow of information and knowledge among various actors.

Linkage model, diffusion of innovation model, knowledge functions, concept of system approach and extension concept form the theoretical part of this study.

Primary data for this work came from narrative interviews, Semi structured interviews, Key informant interviews and Focus group discussions with various actors of AKIS which were administered in Karagwe district (Tanzania) from the month of April to June. In addition literature reviews on history and issues related to AKIS form a part of this work.

Data analysis was done in a form of qualitative descriptions, tables, graphs, designed figures as well as pictures brought from the field. Calculation of percentages on a particular topic and number of frequencies formed a quantitative part of this study.

The extension system in the district lack agroecological client specification therefore it has failed to address the issue of increased agricultural production and productivity for improving households' food security and income.

Farmers are depending solely on their own knowledge and practices. Farmers participation in technology development is still insignificant, no opportunities for development agents to learn from farmers.

Support services like credits, input supply, and market and output prices have failed to provide adequate incentives for farmers to adopt extension packages. Linkage between research extension and farmers is important for effective AKIS. The linkage among various actors in the district is poor. This is mainly due to financial constraints. Staff shortage and low staff qualification have also found to affect the AKIS performance in the district.

Apart from the afore mentioned weaknesses the District AKIS has succeeded on the other hand having many projects and NGOs which have contributed in reviving extension services in the district through various initiatives to boost agricultural production and productivity hence income of farmers. Extension provision by private sectors has helped to reduce public expenditure in the district as they supplement public extension

delivery. Also adoptions of different group extension approaches have helped the dissemination process to become easier in terms of time and cost.

It is only when service providers are motivated that they will be able to motivate and build the capacity of their partners in making decision to solve their own problems. Therefore staff capacity building and motivation are important factors for a good extension work.

To ensure effective AKIS in Karagwe district more efforts are to be made in order to improve the institutional coordination and enabling environments. Government should provide facilitating environments for a decentralized services systems which will allow full participation of farmers. Ensuring effective policies for support systems (credit, market, input supply and output price) are important for agricultural development.