

# Analysis of Agricultural Extension Services in the Development of Agriculture in District Naseerabad, Balochistan

Nadeem Ahmad<sup>1</sup> Rahmatullah<sup>2</sup> Shehzad Malik<sup>1</sup> Mansoor Rasheed<sup>3</sup>

1. Department of Agriculture Extension Education and Communication, The University of Agriculture Peshawar Pakistan

2. Department of Agricultural Extension Education, Balochistan Agriculture College Quetta, Pakistan

3. Department of Agricultural Economics, Balochistan Agriculture College Quetta, Pakistan

## Abstract

The study examined agricultural extension services and constraints in the services faced by the farmers of the study area. The farmers indicated the weak information delivery system with less support of demonstration/visualization as weakness to the present technology transfer system. Majority of farmers received less than one visit per month by field assistant. A vast majority of farmers indicated lack of money, high price of inputs referring to the price of fertilizer, seed and pesticide, and adulterated/outdated/expired inputs and non-availability of inputs as major problems faced by them while adopting new technology. Insect pest and diseases, shortage of canal irrigation were the main problems.

## Introduction

Agriculture is central to economic growth and development in Pakistan. Being the dominant sector it contributes 21.4 percent to GDP, employs 45 percent of the country's labour force and contributes in the growth of other sectors of the economy. The healthy expansion in agriculture stimulates domestic demand for industrial goods and other services and supplying raw material to agro-based industry notably cotton textile industry which is the largest subsector of manufacturing sector. The government under paradigm of the new growth strategy envisioned to enhance growth in agriculture sector by facilitating agriculture productivity sustainable environment, increasing competitiveness in agriculture marketing and trade by providing friendly climate for more investment in the sector (GoP, 2013).

In spite of such a great improvement in agriculture, the pace of agriculture development in Pakistan is very low. Khan (2002) revealed that agricultural production in Pakistan is much lower than many other countries of the world. Moreover, there is a big gap between actual yield and attainable potential yield of our crops. It clearly indicates that the available technologies, if adopted by farmers according to the recommendations, can enhance agricultural production considerably. Therefore, there is a dire need to apply science and technology in the field of agriculture. In this context, farmers need adequate information exposure to the latest technologies. Research has shown that by and large farmers' information exposure is most likely to be an important factor influencing their adoption behaviour. Of course, greater exposure is likely to enhance awareness about the latest recommendations and to lead to farmers putting these recommendations into practice in a precise manner (Muhammad & Garforth, 1999).

Agricultural extension, or agricultural advisory services, comprises the entire set of organizations that support people engaged in agricultural production and facilitate their efforts to solve problems; link to markets and other players in the agricultural value chain; and obtain information, skills, and technologies to improve their livelihoods (Davis, 2009).

This definition has evolved since the T&V program, where the focus of extension was transfer of technology to improve productivity, especially for staple food crops. While transfer of technology still has relevance, agricultural extension is now seen as playing a wider role by developing human and social capital, enhancing skills and knowledge for production and processing, facilitating access to markets and trade, organizing farmers and producer groups, and working with farmers toward sustainable natural resource management practices. Within this expanded role, the breadth of information that agricultural extension can support through provision and facilitating access and sharing is much larger. In addition, as the agriculture scenario has become more complex, farmers' access to sources of reliable and relevant information has become increasingly important (Swanson, 2008).

## Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study were:

- To find out constraints in providing agricultural extension services to farmers.
- To examine the role of extension services in enhancing agricultural productivity.

Five villages i.e. Goth Haji Muhammad Raheem, Goth Per Muhammad, Goth Jan Muhammad, Goth Bahadur Khan and Goth Mir Ahmad were selected purposively. Total 55 farmers were selected for the study from above villages 15, 12, 10, 10 and 8 respectively. The data for this study were generated through the use of

structured interview schedule. The study is based on both primary and secondary data. Secondary data were collected from various published and unpublished sources. Primary data were collected by personal interview method from the respondents. To seek the quantitative data a interview schedule was designed and pre tested to make changes accordingly in order to get an accurate data. Collected data were transferred to excel sheet in computer. the data was analyzed by calculating simple percentages and drawing relevant graphs or charts.

#### Medium through which agricultural extension provides extension services

During research it was revealed that most of the extension services were provided through short training program, farm visits and workshops to the farmers. Table 4.5 shows that agricultural extension services were provided to all the respondents (67.27%) through training programs while 20% and 12.72% respondents also got training through field days and workshops respectively.

**Table 4.5. Distribution of medium through which agriculture extension office provides extension services**

S. No.	Medium through which agricultural extension provides extension services				Total
	Villages	Training programs	Field days	Workshops	
1	Goth Haji Muhammad Raheem	9	3	3	15
2	Goth Per Muhammad	8	2	2	12
3	Goth Jan Muhammad	6	3	1	10
4	Goth Bahadur khan	8	2	0	10
5	Goth Mir Ahmad	6	1	1	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>37 (67.27)</b>	<b>11 (20)</b>	<b>7 (12.72)</b>	<b>55 (100)</b>

Source: field Study, Data in parenthesis () are percentages.

#### Utilization of agricultural extension services by respondents

The data regarding utilization of extension services by the respondents is shown in the table. The table 4.6. shows that 81.81% of respondents utilizes the extension services and their income is increased. 18.18% of the respondents does not utilizes the extension services and they are of the view that by utilizing the extension services their income does not increases.

**Table 4.6. Distribution of respondents regarding utilization of agricultural extension services**

S. No.	Utilization of Agricultural Extension Services				Total	
	Villages	Utilization		Productivity/income increased		
		Yes	No	Yes		No
1	Goth Haji Muhammad Raheem	11	4	11	4	15
2	Goth Per Muhammad	9	3	9	3	12
3	Goth Jan Muhammad	8	2	8	2	10
4	Goth Bahadur khan	9	1	9	1	10
5	Goth Mir Ahmad	8	-	8	-	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>45 (81.81)</b>	<b>10 (18.18)</b>	<b>45 (81.81)</b>	<b>10 (18.18)</b>	<b>55 (100)</b>

Source: field Study, Data in parenthesis () are percentages.

#### 4.7. Perception of respondents about agricultural extension services provided by Agriculture extension office.

The soundness/effectiveness of extension services is determined through the perception of the respondents. The collected data in this regard is shown in the table 4.7. The data indicates that 74.45% of the respondents was at satisfactory level according to the needs while 25.45% were dissatisfied regarding the services provided by agriculture extension office.

**Table 4.7. Distribution of respondent's perception about agricultural services provided by agriculture extension office**

S. No	Perception About Agricultural Services			Total
	Villages	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	
1	Goth Haji Muhammad Raheem	11	4	15
2	Goth Per Muhammad	9	3	12
3	Goth Jan Muhammad	6	4	10
4	Goth Bahadur khan	8	2	10
5	Goth Mir Ahmad	7	1	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>41 (74.45)</b>	<b>14 (25.45)</b>	<b>55 (100)</b>

Source: field Study, Data in parenthesis () are percentages.

#### 4.8 Response of the respondents regarding visits of extension worker

The extension worker visits every community in the study area at varying intervals. These visits are not only essential for the community in order to get the information from the field about different activities of the communities. The data in table 4.8. shows that 9.09% respondents have told that the extension worker visits them after 2 weeks while 30.90% told that he used to come once in a month. Majority of the respondents i.e. 60% respondents told that extension worker used to come on call.

**Table 4.8. Distribution of respondent's response regarding visits of extension worker**

S. No	Response Regarding Visits of Extension Worker					Total
	Villages	After 1 week	2 week	Once in a month	On call	
1	Goth Haji Muhammad Raheem	-	2	5	8	15
2	Goth Per Muhammad	-	-	6	6	12
3	Goth Jan Muhammad	-	3	-	7	10
4	Goth Bahadur khan	-	-	4	6	10
5	Goth Mir Ahmad	-	-	2	6	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b> <b>(0)</b>	<b>5</b> <b>(9.09)</b>	<b>17</b> <b>(30.90)</b>	<b>33</b> <b>(60)</b>	<b>55 (100)</b>

Source: field Study, Data in parenthesis () are percentages.

#### 4.10. Problems faced by the farming community to adopt Agricultural practices provided by the Department of Agriculture Extension.

Adoption of any agricultural extension practice depend upon the effective communication and low cost of the inputs to be supplied. However, farmers in the study area reported the following problems while adopting the agricultural practices advised by Department of Agriculture extension. The data in table 4.4. Shows that 21.81% respondents reported that lack of education is the problem faced by them and 9.09% of the respondent considers as lack of education as the problem faced by them. A greater number of respondents i.e. (41.81%) respondents identified that financial problem is the main constraints regarding adoption of agricultural practices. Improper communication and low quality of inputs are faced by 10.09% and 12.72% respectively.

**Table 4.11. Distribution of respondents regarding problems faced in adoption of Agricultural practices.**

S. No	Villages	Problems faced in adoption of Agricultural practices.						Total
		Lack of education	Lack of awareness	Improper communication	Low quality of inputs	Climatic conditions	Financial problems	
1	Goth Haji Muhammad Raheem	3	2	0	3	1	6	15
2	Goth Per Muhammad	2	0	0	4	0	6	12
3	Goth Jan Muhammad	2	0	1	0	0	7	10
4	Goth Bahadur khan	3	3	4	0	0	0	10
5	Goth Mir Ahmad	2	0	1	0	1	4	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12 (21.81)</b>	<b>5</b> <b>(9.09)</b>	<b>6</b> <b>(10.90)</b>	<b>7</b> <b>(12.72)</b>	<b>2</b> <b>(3.63)</b>	<b>23</b> <b>(41.81)</b>	<b>55 (100)</b>

Source: field Study, Data in parenthesis () are percentages.

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