

CHAPTER IV

The DESIGN of Research and Extension Projects

A Introduction

This chapter is intended for the team responsible for working on project design. However, it is derived from an analysis of the interests and needs of the host institution and can be used as a basis of discussion among the team, the donor, and the host institution.

These guidelines address both research and extension (R/E) and consider technology innovation as a single process, even though in most cases two entities share responsibility for implementing it. Orient your work to the single process.

In R/E project design you do not deal directly with agricultural production technology. You deal with organization and management with the aim of improving the host country's ability to deal with agricultural technology.

B. Technical Design Considerations

1. Base your design on a set of models that are consistent with each other. Models will help explain the way you view the phenomena with which you are dealing. They will help test your ideas and suggest new ones, and they will provide a common orientation for all of the personnel who are to be involved in the project. That common orientation will greatly facilitate communication among the various groups with diverse backgrounds who will work on the project during its lifetime.

This set of guidelines is based largely on the Technology Innovation Process (TIP) Model and derivatives from it. It is explained in Appendix A and summarized in various places. You can use the Model, modify it, or develop one of your own. As you develop and use models, please report your experience to FSSP.

(a) The TIP Model provides a firm conceptual base for FSR/E. It also places FSR/E in context and shows both its potential value to the technology innovation process and its limitation if viewed outside that process. FSR/E addresses the functions of integration (knowing and understanding farmers and their farming systems), testing (in the farming systems by criteria of those systems), and adaptation (to improve the fit of the technology for the system and for similar systems).