

Summary

Research and extension organizations are a part of a country's mechanisms for achieving improved productions as a basis for agriculture development. Each must function well to justify public support. Gaps or lack of functional support between extension and research will become increasingly intolerable in the years ahead. Extension services frequently take a constant flow of technology into the system for granted. A checklist of selected frequently forgotten aspects of setting up a TL&S staff in extension follows:

A Checklist of Important Considerations in Setting up or Operating a TL&S Group

1. Develop an in-depth understanding with knowledge sources, starting at the top. Don't take it for granted. Memoranda of understanding between extension and major knowledge sources enhance the relationship and provide greater continuity. Many good ideas do not pay off because the supporting steps were not taken. Some elements of an agreement might be :

Overall

Extension and research will provide mutual support as a priority part of their job. Facilitating research should be a part of each extension worker's job and facilitating dissemination a part of each researcher's role.

Things that Extension might agree to do:

- a. Provide information to researchers about problems that are encountered in the field, with a meeting between appropriate people in the organization no less than once a year (along with frequent personal contact) to discuss mutual concern and provide assistance in making needed surveys.
- b. Facilitate research personnel contact with farmers to see problems first hand and to discuss need with farmers.
- c. Help identify and make contacts with farmers needed in facilitating research activities and field testing technology.
- d. Make personnel available to assist with the day to day supervision of field tests and demonstrations.
- e. Maintain a corps of technical liaison personnel which will have a major assignment in facilitating the above functions and enhancing the transfer of information to extension for dissemination. And organize and house them to enhance the performance of these activities.
- f. Assign extension personnel as appropriate to workgroups or task forces of research personnel such as Farming Systems Research groups, who have extension related functions to perform and which have regular need for farmer contact.