

Things Research might agree to do

- a. Cooperate with extension in performing the various research functions which involve farmer contact and identification of problems needing research.
 - b. Take part in the training of extension personnel as is feasible.
 - c. Take part in field days as feasible to help explain research.
 - d. Make farm visits on request by extension to help identify problems with which extension needs help.
 - e. Work with extension personnel to help decide what should be recommended to farmers based on research results. This involves extrapolating from specific research as well as simplification without loss of validity.
2. There is no perfect place for TL&S personnel to be housed as their role involves frequent contact between the extension field system and knowledge sources. But other things being equal the accessing of information and its introduction into the extension system will be enhanced by locating extension personnel close to research personnel.
 3. Work with research counterparts will be benefitted by having similar organizational structure in extension and research. Barriers are reduced when administration units have the same subject matter components and role definitions. For example, including wheat among the responsibilities of a field crop person in one of the units and as a part of cereal grains in the other may impede communication.
 4. Place high priority on having a TL&S staff training experience and attitudes that will enhance their acceptability to researchers and other sources of technical personnel; and then provide them with the tools of their profession. Practical knowledge of farming and familiarity with field problems must go hand in hand with the ability to understand and communicate with technical sources. The ability to reduce complex things to understandable terms and to write and speak are also important abilities but must not take priority over the first two. Ability to relate to extension agents and farmers is usually enhanced by a genuine concern for their performance and welfare. Therefore, one frequently hears about employing persons in the role who "like people". When linked with the other requirements, this is an important consideration but again can not substitute for technical competence and practical field knowledge.
 5. Don't develop a mechanical, inflexible role for TL&S personnel. Technical liaison and support staff are to train and facilitate the performance of extension personnel as needed. Therefore, the approach to their work must be flexible. Too often such personnel work only in formal teaching situations and do not work with extension agents in the field. Some extension agents are able to attend workshop sessions and then proceed directly to using the information in the field. But others, a great many others, will be unsure of themselves either because they did not grasp it fully or because the dissemination of the information per se may expose them to related practical field questions with which they feel insecure.