



Productivity and Development Center
Productivity Development Research Office
2016 Project Accomplishment Report

Project Information

Project Code	QDIBW
Project Title	Training Course on Innovative Agricultural Extension Systems to Improve Farm Productivity and Income
Project Start	April 01, 2016
Project End	September 30, 2016
Project Price	Php 1,090,000.00
Client Organization	Asian Productivity Organization (APO)
Status	Project Closed
I. Project Team:	
Project Manager	Yuri R. Munsayac
Team Members	Jomar A. Pastrana, Natasha Michelle V. Abaya
Supervising Fellow	Monica D. Saliendres
Consultants/Resource Persons	Dr. M. Kalim Qamar; Dr. V.P. Sharma; Ms. Susana Evangelista-Leones; Dr. Melvin Carlos; Mr. Arnel Abanto

II. Project Details

A. Project Description:

Globalization, the changing structure of rural economies, and emerging issues such as sustainability, environmental degradation, climate change, and aging farmers have brought new challenges and opportunities in agriculture. It has also enhanced the need for timely, credible, tailored information as one of the drivers of agricultural growth. Addressing new challenges requires AES to play an expanded role in linking farmers more effectively to the market, coupling technology transfer with other services relating to input and output markets, environmental conservation, promoting rural entrepreneurship, building the capacity to strengthen innovation processes, and institutional development to support the bargaining position of farmers. To meet these multiple challenges, there is a need to promote innovative AES.

AES should be dynamic to be able to respond to the changing needs of farmers and to assimilate the latest approaches, tools, and techniques in the delivery of evolving extension services. Such systems should optimize the use of ICT. To be considered innovative, new extension systems should be able to translate the knowledge, best practices, and new inventions into more commercial applications by farmers. At the same time, they should be able to make farming activities more productive, profitable, and friendly to aging and female farmers as well as more attractive to the younger generation.

In recent years, many countries have introduced restructuring and institutional and technological innovations in AES. Some countries dismantled the centralized system and devolved extension functions to local government units. Others created separate extension units in new organizations established to cater specifically to a particular group of farmers which are distinct from the AES under the Department of Agricultural Extension of the Ministry of Agriculture. The entry of NGOs, the private sector, and academia with their own extension programs for small farmers is also a trend.



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In line with this, in 2014 the Academy, being the National Productivity Organization, proposed a program to the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) that aims to assess the status of extension services delivered to small farmers in the Asia Pacific region and study emerging systems that are more effective in the transfer of agricultural knowledge and skill development. The proposal was a result of the recently concluded DAP benchmarking study across five (5) Asian countries, where one of the major findings and observations was the crucial role of extension and research in agricultural productivity and development.

Through its Agriculture Department, the APO responded by supporting the conduct of the project entitled "Workshop on Innovative Extension Services to Improve Agricultural Productivity." The workshop was held on 17-21 November 2014 at the Marco Polo Hotel, Pasig City, Philippines. 29 local and foreign participants, involved in agriculture extension service delivery, from 13 APO-member countries attended the 2014 workshop.

The Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI), whose mandate (under Executive Order Number 116) is to train agricultural extension workers and clientele, conduct multi-level training programs to promote and accelerate rural development, and ensure that research results are communicated to the farmers through appropriate training and extension activities, collaborated with the Academy and the APO in hosting the said workshop by sponsoring nine (9) participants who joined the event.

As a follow through to the successful conduct of the Workshop on Innovative Extension Services, the Academy and the APO, as part of their continuing effort to advance productivity in the agriculture sector through innovative and effective extension service, conducted this project entitled "Training Course on Innovative Agricultural Extension Services to Improve Farm Productivity and Income."

B. Project Objective:

The training enhanced participants' knowledge and skills on the latest approaches, tools, techniques, and skills for effective delivery of extension services to farmers; and, learned from the innovative schemes, emerging agricultural extension systems (AES), and best practices that promise to be more effective in the transfer of know-how and skill development of small farmers to enhance productivity and incomes

C. Focus Area: Agriculture Sector

D. Project Type:

The nature of the project is Training and Capacity Building.

E. Project Beneficiary:

26 participants and one (1) observer from 14 APO member countries

F. Coverage: The training covered new paradigms in agricultural knowledge management and dissemination; emerging systems of knowledge sharing and extension; and innovative schemes and best practices for enhancing agricultural productivity and increasing the production and income of farmers.



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Modules covered include:

- a. AES in Asia and their contributions to farm productivity and incomes of small farmers;
- b. Emerging models in agricultural extension to enhance productivity and farmers' income and welfare;
- c. Public-private partnerships in agricultural extension;
- d. Role of extension in stimulating youth interest in agriculture;
- e. Emerging needs of farmers in the age of globalization and ICT;
- f. ICT applications in agricultural extension: selected cases in the Asian setting;
- g. Development of a best practice network in extension; and,
- h. Retooling and capacity development needs of agricultural extension mechanisms.

The program consisted of lectures, presentations, sharing of best practices, hands-on exercises, field visits, and written examination.

III. Project Accomplishments

A. Key Activities Implemented:

Various models of innovative extension services were presented in achieving the objectives of the training. The event also provided an opportunity to exchange insights, experiences and best practices through group discussions and exercises. Site visits to international and local organizations were also conducted.

Five (5) distinguished resource persons (2 international and 3 local) provided inputs and shared their experiences in the training. The two (2) international resource persons (Dr. M. Kalim Qamar and Dr. V.P. Sharma), provided by the APO, covered the eight (8) modules of the training, while the three (3) local resource speakers (Ms. Susana Evangelista-Leones, Dr. Melvin Carlos and Mr. Arnel Abanto) identified by the DAP, delivered three (3) special presentations. Aside from the lectures and presentations, a group exercise/discussion was conducted.

At the start of each training day, Management of Learning (MOL) activities were conducted to: 1) provide a background of the day's activities; 2) discuss the learning of the previous day; and 3) makes some reminders or announcements from the APO or the DAP Project Team. Participants also had site visits in four (4) different agencies (1 international institute, 1 national research agency, 1 national government agency and 1 Non-Government Organization). During the 1st and penultimate day of the training, country presentations were made - sharing of successful models of providing agricultural extension services to farmers. After each country presentation, the resource persons gave comments and suggestions.

At the end of the training, a written assessment exam was administered to the participants.

B. Major Outputs:

A total of twenty-six (26) participants and one (1) observer attended the training with 17 males and 10 females. The participants came from various sectors and are involved in agricultural extension either as managers, promoters, educators/trainers, scientists, farmers/practitioners, or policy planners.



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The training course enhanced participants' knowledge and skills on the latest approaches, tools, techniques, and skills for effective delivery of extension services to farmers; and, for the participants to learn from the innovative schemes, emerging agricultural extension systems (AES), and best practices that promise to be more effective in the transfer of know-how and skill development of small farmers to enhance productivity and incomes.

Participants to the training are from agencies and organizations involved in the development, promotion, and practice of agricultural extension systems in their respective countries either as managers, promoters, educators/trainers, scientists, farmers/practitioners, or policy planners. Most are from government agencies involved in the management and promotion of agricultural technology for rural development. Some are from private organizations who are either actual farmer practitioner or owners of farms. A few are scientists who are into agricultural research.

At the end of the training, a written assessment exam was administered to the participants. All participants did very well in the exam, with three (3) participants getting the perfect score of 20, while the lowest score was 15.5.

In general, participants appreciated the conduct of the training. Overall evaluation of the course indicates that 62% thought the training exceeded their expectations, while 23% of the participants rated the training as having met their expectations. 15% did not submit their course evaluation. As regards to the resource persons, 65% of the participants on the average thought their performance were more than expected, while the remaining 20% rated the RPs delivery of the topics as expected. Again, 4% thought the performance of some of the resource persons did not meet their expectations, while 11% did not submit the speakers' evaluation. Majority of the participants think the RPs are very knowledgeable on the subject matter and have good presentation skills. As a way forward, majority of the participants said that they will re-echo the learning from this course to their colleagues, students and/or farmers.

C. Project Impacts:

Majority of the participants think the RPs are very knowledgeable on the subject matter and have good presentation skills. As a way forward, majority of the participants said that they will re-echo the learning from this course to their colleagues, students and/or farmers.

D. Lessons Learned:

During the conduct of the Training, some lessons were learned that can help improve future conduct of trainings by DAP:

1. List of participants attending the training should be made final 3-4 weeks before the actual training. This is to better facilitate preparations for accommodation, food and training materials.
2. Admin matters and logistical preparations should be finished at the start of the training. This is so the project team can focus on the presentations from resource persons and other learning materials being used in the training.



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IV. Attachments

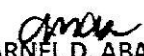
Annex A – Certificate of Project Closure (to be attached as soon as client returns signed certificate).

Not applicable for this project.

Prepared by:


YURIE MUNSAYAC
Project Manager

Noted/Approved by:


ARNEL D. ABANTO
Center Head

Notes:

1. Project details on Section I-III can be generated thru PMIS based on PMs Inputs
2. Project Managers are required to accomplish Section IV & provide Section V to reflect results of project implementation
3. Project Managers can update/adjust the pre-filled sections(I-III) based on actual data