

Study on the dissemination of research findings to farmers with special reference to Department of Agriculture in Sri Lanka.

W.P.Thanuja Dilrukshi

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ABSTRACT

Agricultural information is considered as an essential input to agricultural education, research, development and extension activities. This study is focused on the agricultural research and extension linkage with three research institutes namely RRDI, HORDI and FCRDI of the Department of Agriculture in Sri Lanka. The primary objective of this study was to examine whether the agriculture research findings of the DOA are disseminated to the farmers of the country through its extension services. Specific objectives of the study were to find out what type of research are conducted by the three research institutes of the Department of Agriculture, to find out the main methods used for disseminating new agricultural information to farmers, to find out whether these research are included in farmer extension programmes, and to find out barriers for effective information dissemination.

The data were collected by using a structured questionnaire. The total sample taken for this study was 113, consisting research officers and extension personnel. The analysis was carried out by taking the entire sample separately and on the basis of individual institutions.

The survey revealed that the research and extension personnel in the three research institutes of the DOA are regularly engaged in research, focusing on local agrarian problems. The main research areas of the researchers were plant breeding, soil and water resource management, and agronomy and crop science. The research interests of extension personnel were mainly IT based, because IT has been accepted all over the world as an effective and quick method of dissemination of information to farmers. Thirty two percent of researchers (32%) in three research institutes delivered their research outputs to the extension division in their respective institutes. Forty five percent of extension officers (45%) produced extension material by themselves. The majority of researchers and extensionist used field demonstration and farmer training programs as the main methods of information dissemination to farmers.

The main difficulty faced by both the researchers and the extension personnel was shortage of extension staff to carry out extension services for information dissemination, to farming community.

Key words: Information Dissemination, Extension methods, Research/extension linkage, Farming community, Extension services