



# Agricultural Extension System in Nepal Issues and challenges

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# Presentation Outline

- ❖ **Evolution of Agriculture Extension Nepal**
- ❖ **Extension Approaches in Nepal**
- ❖ **Agriculture Extension program**
- ❖ **Issues Related to Agriculture Extension**
- ❖ **Challenges**

# Background

- ❖ **Agriculture is the backbone of the Nepalese economy**
- ❖ **It is the single largest contributor to GDP (34%)**
- ❖ **It directly employs 66% population**
- ❖ **Supports livelihoods of many people**
- ❖ **Agriculture is still a subsistence type & moving towards commercialization**
- ❖ **Agriculture productivity and level of technology adoption is low**

# **Evolution of Agriculture Extension in Nepal**

# Brief History of Agriculture Extension

- ❖ The formal extension system initiated through the Village Development Program under Tribhuvan Village Development Department (TVDD) as part of USAID's point four program in 1952/53.
- ❖ Agriculture Extension Section established in the Department of Agriculture (DOA) in August 1959 together with the shift of responsibility of extension service from the TVDD to the DOA.

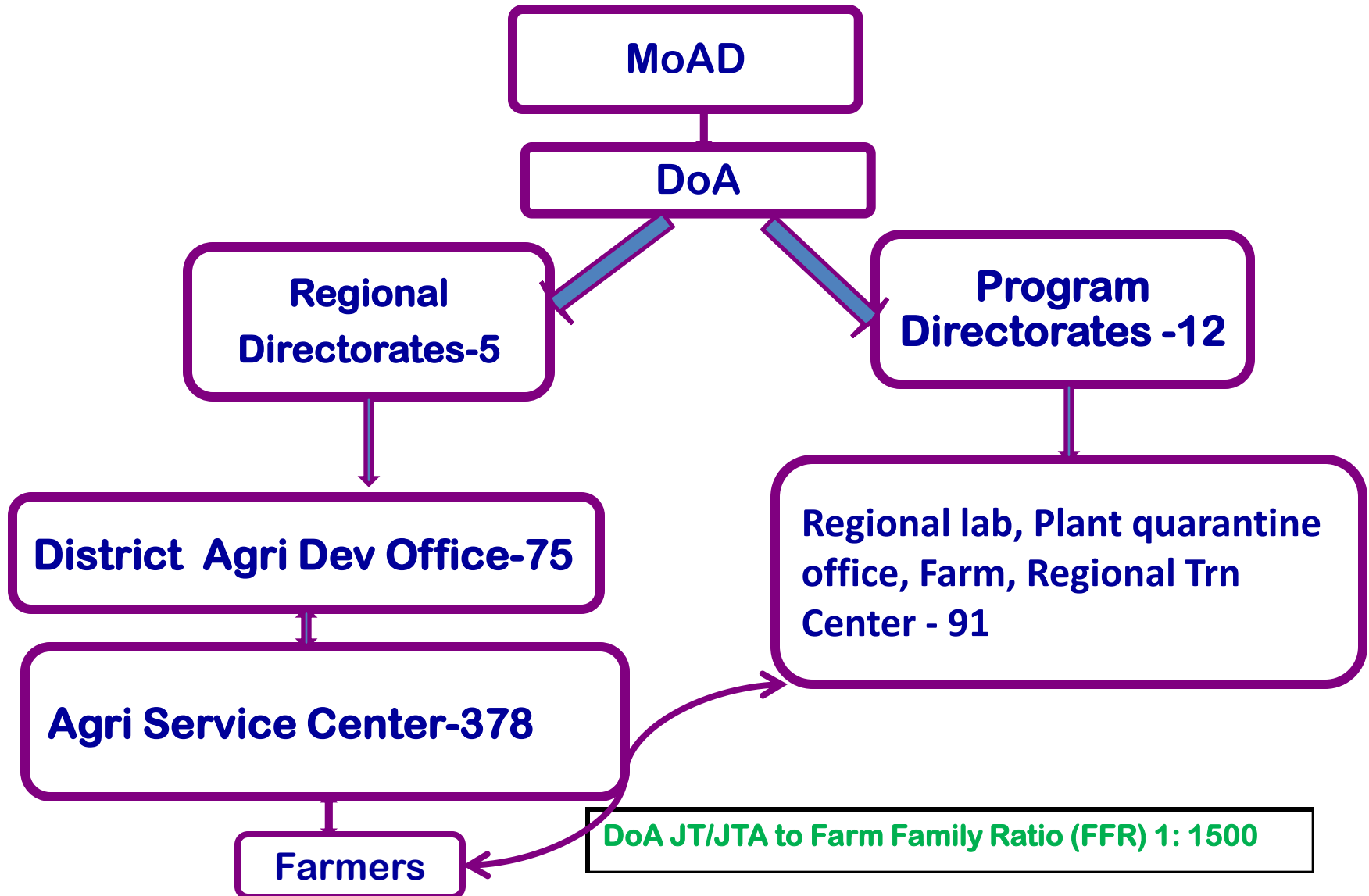
- ❖ **The Department of Agricultural Extension was then established in 1967, established Zonal and District Agriculture Extension Offices throughout the country**
- ❖ **Government had established five departments**
  - **Department of Horticulture**
  - **Department of Agriculture Education and Research**
  - **Department of Livestock and Veterinary Services**
  - **Department of Fisheries**
  - **Department of Agriculture Extension**
  - **Five departments merged in 1972.**

- ❖ In 1979 DOA was divided into two departments
  - Department of Agriculture
  - Department of Livestock Development and Animal Health (DOLDAH)
- ❖ Two Departments were merged and established Department of Agricultural Development in 1992
- ❖ This structure was reorganized in 1995 and formed two departments; Department of Agriculture and the Department of Livestock Services

- ❖ In 2002, the departments have devolved the district extension activities to the respective
- ❖ District Development Committees (DDCs) as per the Decentralization Policy of the Government of Nepal and the Local Self Governance Act (LSGA) 1999.
- ❖ Now, the Nepalese agriculture extension system is decentralized extension service and DOA is responsible for dissemination of crop, horticulture, fisheries and cross cutting related technologies.



# Organizational Structure



# **Extension Approaches in Nepal**

# Approaches adopted in the past

- Training and visit system
- Integrated Rural Development approach
- Tuki approach
- Farming system Research and Extension approach
- Block Production Program

# Approaches at present

- ❖ **Pocket package approach**
- ❖ **Projectization approach**
- ❖ **Farmers Group Approach**
- ❖ **Farmers field school Approach**
- ❖ **Partnership Approach**

# Major Extension Programs

- ❖ **Institution Development:**
  - **Farmer Group (FG) formation and strengthening**
  - **Transformation of matured FGs to Agriculture cooperatives**

# Extension Programs ...

## ❖ Infrastructure Development:

- Small irrigation development, rehabilitation and strengthening
- Cooperative irrigation
- Cooperative farming
- Storage, collection and market center development

## ❖ Input Supply:

- Chemical fertilizers
- Seeds and saplings

# Extension Programs ...

## ❖ Production Programs:

- Pocket Package programs
- One Village One Product (OVOP)
- Mission Programs
- Seed multiplication programs
- Crop intensification programs

## ❖ Service Delivery:

- Technical advice
- Laboratory
- Regulatory

# Extension program

- ❖ **Mass media: FM Radio**
- ❖ **Toll Free Phone Services**
- ❖ **Farmers' Field School (FFS)**
- ❖ **Farmer to Farmer**



# iDE Extension program

- ❖ Marketing and planning committee- crop calendar, business plan, price information,
- ❖ Challenge fund- Fund provided to agro vet for extension service through local resource person help in commercialization pocket area
- ❖ PMC- participatory market chain approach, joint program planning with stakeholders

# Contribution of Agriculture Extension in Agriculture Development

- ❖ Massive awareness
- ❖ Introduction of modern concepts and approaches
- ❖ Adoption of new technologies
- ❖ Creation of stakeholders demand for services
- ❖ Improvement towards agriculture commercialization
- ❖ Improvement towards food and nutrition security

# Issues Related to Agriculture Extension

- ❖ Weak functional linkages between research-extension-education
- ❖ Poor capability of research, extension & education systems in responding emerging issues & needs of the farmer
- ❖ Inadequate supporting environment such as policies, laws, organizational structure, human and financial resources, physical facilities etc

# Issues Related to Agriculture Extension.....

- ❖ Declining active agriculture labor force in rural areas
- ❖ Lack of HRD Plan
- ❖ Low capacity to coping with climate change
- ❖ Ineffective use of agriculture extension tools and methodology
- ❖ Yield gap between research & field
- ❖ Adoption of improved varieties
- ❖ Access to chemical fertilizers
- ❖ Access to improved seed

# Challenges

- ❖ Mitigating climate Change
- ❖ Distraction of rural youth in Agriculture
- ❖ Agriculture mechanization
- ❖ Inadequate extension personnel
- ❖ Current technical knowhow
- ❖ Land use policy
- ❖ No professionalisms in extension

A scenic view of a rural mountain landscape. In the foreground, there is a field of green plants, possibly a vegetable garden or a field of young trees. In the middle ground, a wooden house with a balcony is visible. The background consists of rolling hills and mountains covered in dense green forest. The text "Thank You" is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Thank You**