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## PRIVATIZATION OF AGRICULTURE EXTENSION

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In developing countries achieving progress in agriculture from subsistence farming to more commercialized and specialized farming demands a technically sound and client accountable extension service. In most of the developing countries, the performance of the public extension system is not up to expectation and is generally disappointing moreover in the recent past . public extension system around the world is witnessing a severe finance crisis, the ideology of globalizarion and liberalization has thrown many challenges and opportunities to developing countries, particularly in the agriculture sector to meet the challenges of the global free market economy this situation demands structural and functional adjustments in the extension system. In this existing climate privatization of the agricultural extension service might be an inviting proposition in the years to come many developing countries around the world are likely to try experimentation or implementation of privatization.

### Concept

Privatization of agriculture extension service may be defined as the services rendered in the area of agriculture and allied sectors by extension personal working in private agencies or organization for which farmers are expected to pay a fee and it can be viewed as supplementary and complimentary to public extension services

### These Concepts about the Privatization

1. It involves extension personnel from private agency/ organization
2. Clients are expected to pay the service fee.
3. Act as supplementary or alternative to public extension service

## **Privatization Agriculture Extension Because of the Following Reasons**

1. Decline trend in government expenditure in public extension due to heavy rainfall burden.
2. Perception of public extension service as less effective in meeting the current needs of the farmers .
3. A shift in agriculture from subsistence level to commercialized agribusiness.
4. To meet the challenges of globalization and liberalization of the farm sector.
5. And demand of the farmers for specialized knowledge, information and assistance.

## **Characteristics of Private Extension System**

**Objectives-** Private extension system mainly concern with maximum possible profit to the clients through advisory services.

**Target group** – Private extension mostly concentrates on big farmers

**Clients** – In private extension system clients are more committed and careful about extension services because they are paying for the services.

**Offerings** – Profit-oriented services include not only technology transfer but also supply of critical inputs.

**Technologies** – Private extension agencies transfer the locations specific and demand- driven technologies, technologies are specialized and costly

**Organizations** – Private extension personnel becomes more accountable to clients and highly motivated because they are getting remuneration from their clients.

**Funding** – Private extension services gets funds from farmers contribution and developments agencies.

**Extension services** – Advisory nature of service extension becomes purchased input and it generates new income to farmers.

**Methods** – Private consultancy mostly adopt contact methods as group approach will reduce their chance of getting consultancy fee.

## Strategies for Privatization Extension

- ❖ **Commercialization of extension service** – complex demand- driven technologies in the public extension system should be provided for particular cost.
- ❖ **Introducing contract extension system** – public extension system can make contract with registered private agriculture consultancy agencies to transfer the agriculture technology.
- ❖ **Introducing sharecropping system** – private and public extension agents are provided with remuneration in the form of share crop, it will increase the extension personals accountability and commitment to the service
- ❖ **Giving partnership rights and more responsibility to private sector and NGOs** – private sector and NGOs are entering in a big way in recent years to provide agriculture consultancy. They may be given more responsibility in agriculture technology transfer.
- ❖ **Gradual withdrawal of public extension system** – gradual withdrawal can be done in two ways area- wise or commodity wise; extension service responsibility in areas having favorable environment like high soil fertility, high irrigation potential, satisfactory infrastructure facilities, commercial farming and commodities which provide high profit to farmers, can be given to the private sector.
- ❖ **Creating and strengthening farmers' groups and cooperatives** – through farmers group and cooperatives, extension agents are appointed and the members will share the cost for this purpose, existing village cooperatives, clubs, mahila mandals and water managements committees are used. private organizations such as agricultural consultancy, commercial firms, agro- based industries, input agencies organization etc. will enter the area of extension service.

## Conclusion

The work of agricultural extension gives the farmers the right information related to farming, new information and methods of modern farming, but the government agencies of the government are proving to be inactive in doing this. Farmers get the right information at the right time which will increase their production; all these things can be done easily after the privatization of the extension, how to apply it along with the transfer of private agencies technology under agriculture privatization. Government agencies also give information, there

is a huge shortage of resources, infrastructure etc. in sufficient quantity, that is why private agencies work to give correct information to the farmers by taking a fair price from them.

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