



Module 9: Farmer Organizational Development

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Summary

Module overview

This module will provide basic practical guiding principles to the extensionist on how to develop the capacity of farmers to enable them to form strong organisations that effectively serve their members. The module discusses the definition of farmers' organisations (FOs) and how different formations of farmers play different function and roles in the agriculture sector. Issues of sustainability of FOs will be discussed and the extensionist will be equipped to guide farmers in forming and managing sustainable organisations.

Module Learning Objectives

At the end of this module you will be able to:

- Understand the concept of FOs, their typology, and their differentiated formations and functions.
- Understand the diverse environment under which FOs operate and factors that are critical for their success.
- Understand the complexity involved in developing a viable capacity development programme for small-scale FOs.
- Understand the concept of sustainability of FOs and be able to assist farmers to make their organization more sustainable.

Module Performance outcomes

Upon completing this module, you will be:

- Able to competently explain different formations and functions of FOs as well as the appropriate services each of the categories is expected to provide to farmers.
- Able to advise farmers' organisations on how they can ensure sustainability of their organisations.

Units

Unit 1: Definition and Differentiated mandate of Farmers' Organizations

- What is a farmer-based organisation?
- Categories of farmers' organisations

Unit 2: Prerequisite For Successful Farmers' Organization

- Internal factors that can affect the operations of FOs
- External factors affecting FOs

Unit 3: Sustainability of Farmers' Organizations

- Farmer representation as a factor for sustainability
- Importance of good cooperate governance in FOs
- Importance of financial sustainability in FOs

Unit 4: Functions of Farmers' Organizations

- Economic Function of FOs
- Function of influencing policies – political function
- Social function played by FOs
- FOs and their role in facilitating farmers to access technology