

AHE 609 (DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONCEPT OF EXTENSION)

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**RECENT TRENDS IN
EXTENSION
EDUCATION**

**FARMING SITUATION
BASED
EXTENSION**

- A major challenge in Indian agricultural development in the present decade and beyond lies in the effective involvement of farmers in the extension and research programs
- Involving farmers in the process of technology development can develop appropriate recommendations specific to crop situation
- In the past several attempts were made in classifying climates and the agro-climates. Earlier attempts in classifying the agro-climatic regions were centered round the parameters like average rainfall or temperature that influences the crops / vegetation in abundance.
- Planning commission has identified 15 resource development regions in the country

- Under the National Agricultural Research Project (NARP) the country was divided into 126 agro-climatic zones for 17 states and 6 union territories of north eastern hill regions
- The production problem related to that commodity varies from situation to situation.
- likewise extension needs for improving the productivity of that commodity also varies considerably from situation to situation
- There is a need to carry out situation oriented research and extension programs.

IT CAN BE DONE WITH TWO WAYS

- 1. Farming Situation Based Research and Extension
- 2. Crop / Commodity Based Research and Extension

FARMING SYSTEM APPROACH

CONCEPT OF FARMING SYSTEM APPROACH

- Farming system is an integrated set of activities that farmers perform in their farms under their resources and circumstances to maximize the productivity and net farm income on a sustainable basis.
- The farming system takes into account the components of soil, water, crops, livestock, labour, capital, energy and other resources, with the farm family at the centre of managing agriculture and related activities.
- The farming system conceptually is a set of elements or components that are interrelated which interact among themselves

- Farming System is defined as a complex inter related matrix of soil, plants, animals, implements, power, labour, capital and other inputs controlled in part by farming families and influenced to varying degrees by political, economic, institutional and social forces that operate at many levels.
- The farming system therefore, refers to the farm as an entity of inter dependent farming enterprises carried out on the farm. The farm is viewed in a holistic manner.
- The farmers are subjected to many socio-economic; biophysical, institutional, administrative and technological constraints.

Why Farming Systems Approach

- To develop farm – house hold systems and rural communities on a sustainable basis
- To improve efficiency in farm production
- To raise farm and family income
- To increase welfare of farm families and satisfy basic needs.

Farming Systems Strategy

- Agriculture + Livestock
- Agriculture + Livestock + poultry
- Agriculture + Horticulture + Sericulture
- Agro-forestry + Silviculture
- Agriculture (Rice) + Fish culture
- Agriculture (Rice) + Fish + Mushroom cultivation

Methodology adopted for grounding the concept of FSA

- I. Identification of major socio-economic situations
- II. Understanding the modifications made in existing farming system by innovative farmers
- III. New options recommended by the Researchers/ Extensionists
- IV. Economic analysis of recommended options and working out alternatives:
- V. In the absence of any recommendations, work out an alternate model by fine tuning the existing model (without major changes) considering the resources, market ,profitability and sustainability