



FEEDING KNOWLEDGE PROGRAMME

Collaborative Workshop on Extension Services for Food Security: trends and challenges

February 24-25-26, 2014

Venue: CIHEAM-IAMB (Bari, ITALY)

Concept Note

The **general objective** of the collaborative workshop on National Extension Services (NES) for Food Security is to enhance the potential of NES in terms of dissemination, extension of research results and responsiveness to local stakeholders' needs. A constructive dialogue on **strategies, methodologies, and tools** for effective extension will be developed, with a specific focus on **food security**. The intention is to trigger a shared and open debate among participants on existing best practices in their countries and then discussing related problems and possible solutions.

Main **thematic** focus will be on promoting sustainable management of natural resources, diversification of activities and market access.

During the workshop sessions the following issues will be dealt with: organizational aspects of NES; innovative methods for needs assessment, developing and transferring knowledge; effective tools and instruments for organization and implementation of extension actions.

Target beneficiaries are NES **high level officers** of the 10 countries¹ addressed by the Programme (2 for each country).

This workshop will be based on a **participatory** approach, an “interactive lab” aiming to facilitate knowledge sharing and management.

The expected output is a shared **orientation paper** gathering the good extension practices emerged in the workshop sessions.

Methodology

The approach to this workshop is a **participatory** one, aiming to facilitate knowledge sharing and knowledge management. During the workshop the representatives of the Extension Services will have the opportunity to present their **experiences** (*externalization phase*) and jointly discuss both formally and informally (*socialization phase*) the issues outlined above with the contribution of insights provided by selected experts (*internalization phase*), who will run the different sessions. All participants will have the opportunity to highlight the main problems/solutions found out during the delivery of extension services in their respective countries

¹ Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian National Authority, Macedonia (representing SWG countries), Tunisia, Turkey.

Experts and facilitators background

William Critchley, director of SLM Associates Ltd and senior consultant for the Centre for International Cooperation at VU University of Amsterdam where he has coordinated for many years the unit for international programmes. He also does consulting for a number of international organizations worldwide. His geographical interest covers Africa and Asia. He's an internationally acknowledged expert in soil & water conservation/water harvesting, natural resource management, indigenous knowledge, farmer innovation.

Francesca Concia collaborates with METID since 2004 in her capacity of communication and training expert. Previously she collaborated with Poliedra, a Knowledge and Training Consortium of Politecnico of Milan working for a distance learning project (Master NetBA), involved in editing format definition, design of didactics and assessment activities, event organization, tutoring and coordination. She has a degree in Classics and specialisation in Staff Management.

Paola Corti collaborates with METID since 2009 in her capacity of communication and training expert, where she is involved in researching topics related to the digital divide and the inclusive role of ICT. She has freelanced as designer, tutor, teacher, project manager in different training projects (online, face to face or blended) for universities, private companies and public institutions. She has a degree in Philosophy and Science of Education.

Luigi Trotta, manager in the Puglia Regional Authority, department of Policies for Rural Development. He is an expert in the field of innovation and knowledge in agriculture and coordinates the Regions through trans-regional network on ES in agriculture, in his ongoing work to develop measures concerning innovation and knowledge transfer in regional RDP for the period 2014-2020

Alberto Dragotta, agronomist and senior consultant at MAIB, with 20 years of experience in agriculture including 15 years of international experience in the field of extension and food security. Among his activities he supervises project development opportunities financed by the EU and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Virginia Belsanti, MAIB consultant in sustainable agriculture and rural development with several years of experience in capacity building, didactic and research tutoring focussing on small-scale farming innovation, natural resource management and social capital development. Previous to MAIB she worked in communication and information management within international media and publishing companies in the UK. She holds a master's degree in Diplomatic Studies.

Programme

The workshop will be organised in 4 sessions over 2 and a half days, from 24 to 26 February 2014

Day 1

Introductory session, IAMB staff

9:00- 9:45

Feeding Knowledge overview

Co-Workshop objectives and programme

Expectations and fears

Session 1: Trends and challenges for agricultural extension services, *William Critchley*

9:45-10:15

“NES: “History and Challenges”, *William Critchley*

10:15-12:15

Country cases: current systems of NES and challenges

20-min coffee break during the country presentations

12:15- 13:00

Brainstorming and preparation of afternoon group work

13:00-14:45 Lunch

14:45-15:00

Priority 4 paper: sustainable development of small rural communities in the Mediterranean within FK framework, *Virginia Belsanti-IAMB*

15:00-17:00

Group work (by region) prioritising challenges in extension and food production: what are the main problems to address?

20 min coffee break during group work

Day 2

Session 2: Innovative Systems in Agriculture and role of NES, *William Critchley, Alberto Dragotta-IAMB*

9:00- 9:30

“Options for the Future” , *William Critchley*

9:30-9:45

NES in EU programming for rural development 2014-2020, *Luigi Trotta, Puglia Regional Authority*

10:00-10:20 Coffee break

10:20-12:30

Country cases: significant successful stories and experiences

12:30-13:00

Brainstorming and preparation to group work

13:00-14:30 Lunch

14:30-15:30

Group work (by region) on successful case studies: what has worked well?

Session 3: The role of ICT, Alberto Dragotta-IAMB, Paola Corti and Francesca Concia-METID

15:30-15:45 Coffee break

15:45-17:00

The role of ICT

Day 3

9:00-10:00

The role of ICT

Session 4: Lessons learned and conclusions, William Critchley, Alberto Dragotta, Virginia Belsanti, METID

10:00-10:20 Coffee break

10:20-13:00

Concluding session: lessons learnt and plans to take home

Drafting “orientation paper”