

Involvement of growers and private sector in Research and Training in Horticulture in Kenya

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Program

- 8 October 2014
 - Anne Elings
 - Research and interaction with sector in The Netherlands

- 20 October 2014
 - Rob Meijer
 - Translation to situation in Kenia
 - Workshop

 - Lunch : 12-13 h

How to build a Research and Training program responsive to the needs of the growers and the sector in Kenya

- What is the basic requirement for a responsive R&T program?
- How to realise?
- How are the R&T programmes made currently in Kenya?
- What to do to improve?

Basic requirement for a responsive R&T program

- Feed back system – communication between client and institution.
- Dynamic – respond to the present and future needs.
- Client driven (demand driven).
- Relevant (involving the clients).
- Interesting for stakeholders (people with interest in the subject) and clients.
- Applicable technology.
- Self-sustaining knowledge.

Basic requirement

Good relation and interaction with the growers and private sector

is essential for

the making and execution of a responsive Research and Training Program

How to realize?

Through :

- Involvement of public/private section in programming and financing R&T.
- Regular follow ups – gathering feed backs.
- Triangular structure: policy making agent / program setting – government (policy) ↔ client ↔ R&T.
- Ready/willing to accept clients' approaches.
- Well equipped.
- Evaluation + monitoring (independent).
- Stakeholder forums.
- Creating awareness.

How to realize?

Through :

- Accountability + transparency (spending of funds + results).
- Invite clients to express their needs.
- Good communication skills.
- Training of groups (growers/farmers).
- Applicable & affordable.
- 75% practical, 25% new knowledge (background info).
- More coordination/cooperation in R&T.
- Awareness of differences in acceptance of new technologies.

How to realize?

Through :

- Skilled staff.
- Evaluation (assessing) new technologies.

How to realize?

Through *(by Rob Meijer)*

- *Have something valuable (knowledge, services, facilities) to offer to grower, sector, county.... they want to contribute to*
- *Up to date knowledge and technologies*
- *Good and regular contacts at different levels and in many ways*
- *Be known*
- *Communication skills*
- *Qualified, motivated and empathic staff*
- *Applied, practice oriented research and training*
- *Accessible organisation*
- *Enabling organisation*

How are the R and T programs for horticulture made today in Kenya?

- Research program with whom and for whom?
- Training program with whom and for whom?

Research programs - today :

With :

- Government → Ministry of Agriculture/Education.
- Research institutions → KARLO, KIRDI, KEFRI, ICIPE etc.
- Private sector → farmers' organizations, agro-chemicals.
- Donor organizations → e.g. World Bank.

For :

- Public.
- Private institutions.
- Researchers/Science.
- Industry/client.

Training programs – today :

With :

- Industry → growers, exporters (technical staff).
- Subject matter specialists (technical trainers).
- Government, Certification Bodies & Donors.
- Universities & other learning institutions.

For :

- Industry → farmers, processors, traders, exporters.
- Students.
- Extension staff.
- Public.

What should be done to improve the current situation?

- Good cooperation between the different stakeholders around a certain subject → growers, manufacturers, suppliers, researchers, extension officers, government.
- More effective research.
- Joint payment → helps in getting parties involved.
- Innovation strategy → periodic hearings + planning on how to proceed and innovate.
- Tell your message → joint statement + give examples of what you have seen.
- Get the project management involved in establishment of demand-driven R&T.



Grower, research and training

- How results from research could be incorporated in a training?
 - Simplify + package research results into usable documents, e.g. brochures, pamphlets, newsletters.
 - Demonstrate results → invite growers to field trials, farmers field days.
 - Incorporate practical assignments (experiencing new practices) during training sessions → involve the researchers.
 - Proper and fast transfer of new knowledge (research results) to trainers.



Grower, research and training

- How experiences during training could lead to research?
 - New experiences or ideas from participants.
 - Questions from trainees which the trainer is unable to answer.
 - Alternative approaches to working practices by trainees, who may have alternatives to formal knowledge.
 - New demands from the market (evolving business opportunities).
 - Proper evaluation at end of training → what knowledge or skills are lacking or missing ?

Grower, research and training

- Solutions :

Information awareness + proper information flow

PTC ↔ JKUAT ↔ KARLO

industry ↔ research ↔ training

And now?

Just start with it

