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 Kenya
  - 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