

STAKEHOLDERS' DIALOGUE ON THE CURRENT EXTENSION ISSUES IN UGANDA ON

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Keynote Presentation

The importance of a national AEAS system and its central role in Agricultural sector in a country

By

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**Plenary
Session**

- What is an AEAS system?
- The changing agricultural advisory landscape – widened mandate
- The AEAS client landscape, segments
- The pluralistic reality
- The new extensionist
- The importance/role of the National AEAS system
- Implications for the current delivery of AEAS

What is an AEAS system?

What is an AEAS system?

AEAS are all the activities that provide the information and services needed and requested by farmers and other actors in rural areas that assist them in developing their own technical, organizational and management skills and practices to improve their livelihoods.



What is an AEAS system?

AEAS is delivered by an AEAS system that includes

- public and
- private sector players



The changed agricultural advisory landscape – widenened mandate

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The changing agricultural advisory landscape – widened mandate

- Increasing agricultural productivity, application of biotechnology
- Climate change, CSA, regenerative agriculture, ecological farming
- Post-harvest handling, food safety, nutrition
- Market orientation, value chain development, farming as a business
- Increased number of agricultural enterprises, white meat, indigenous

The changed agricultural advisory landscape – widened mandate

- Financial inclusion and financing mechanisms
- Sustainable development
- Gender, youth issues, special needs
- Need to reach far and fast – Information Communication Technologies – Radio, social media, mobile phones, web, AI



The changed agricultural advisory landscape – widened mandate

- Farmer organization and institutional development, Innov. platforms partnerships n networks
- New policy directions: Single spine, Parish Development Model, agro-industrialization
- Globalization, implications for small holder farmer participation and benefit



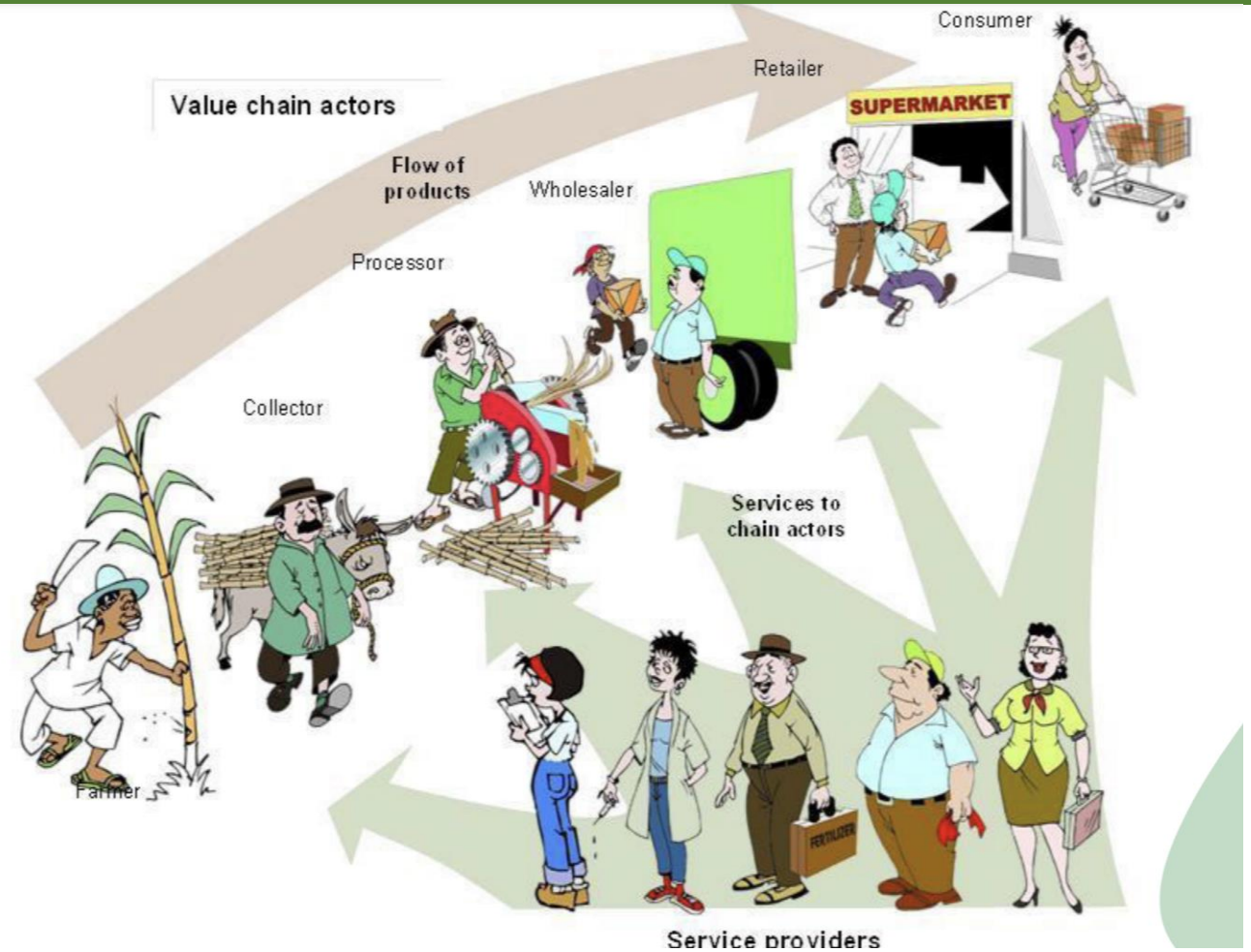
The AEAS client landscape, segments

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The AEAS client landscape, segments

Diversity of target farmers/clients

- Food security farmers (educated, literate and illiterate)
- Commercial farmers
- Women farmers
- Youth farmers
- Value chain actors
- Landless, The last mile

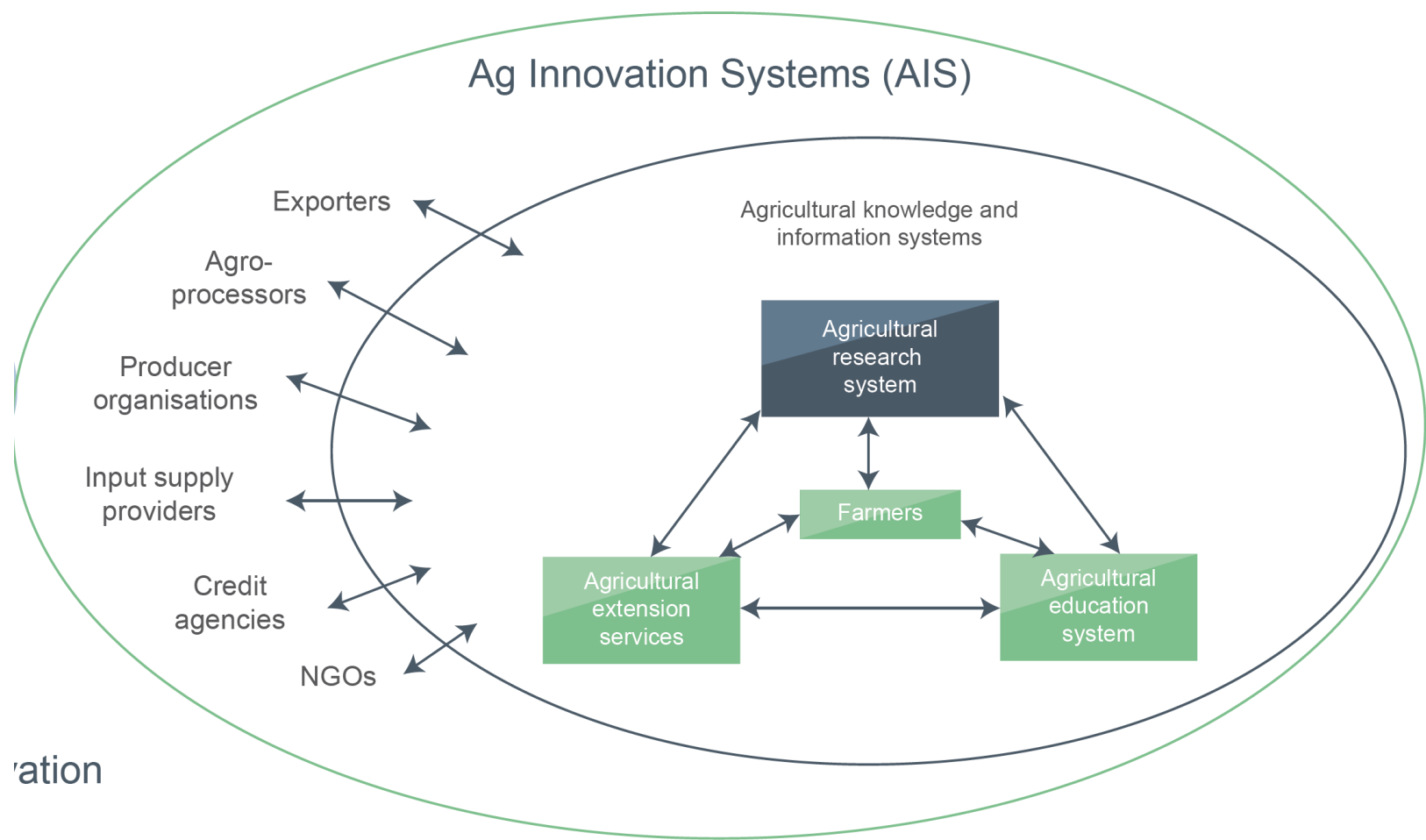


The pluralistic reality

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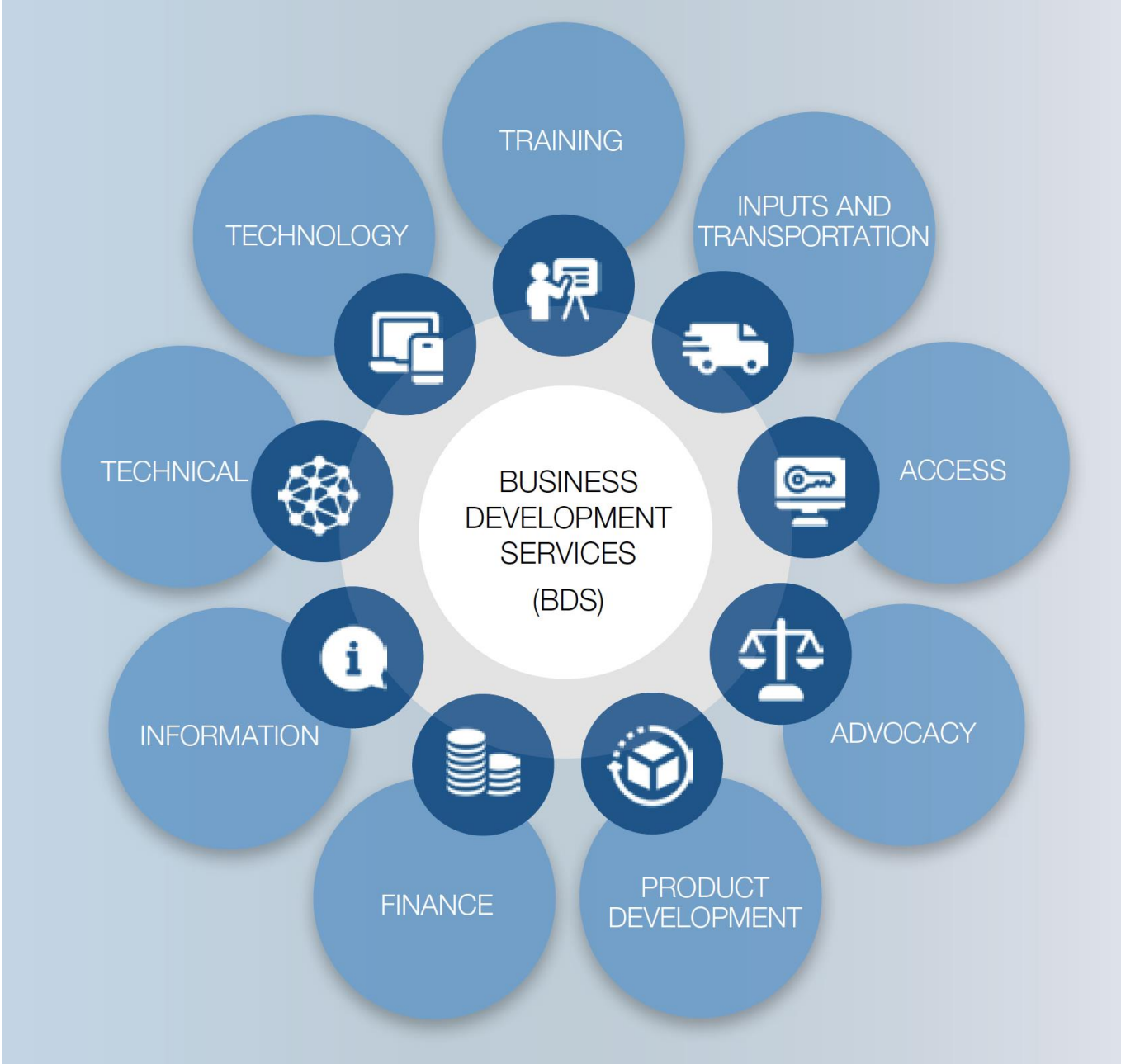
The pluralistic reality

Key players in agricultural innovation systems:
Most agencies and firms play different roles



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The pluralistic reality – multiple services



An agricultural value chain activities:

- Input supply
- Farm production
- Post-harvest handling and processing
- Production and handling technologies
- Grading criteria and facilities
- Cooling and packing technologies
- Storage and transport
- Industrial processing
- Finance
- Feedback from markets.

The new extensionist



- **Increasing agricultural productivity, application of biotechnology**
- Climate change, Climate Smart Agriculture, soil and land management, regenerative agriculture, ecological farming
- **Post-harvest handling, food safety, nutrition,**
- Markets, value chain development, farming a business
- Increased number of agricultural enterprises, white meat, herbals
- **Financial inclusion, and financing mechanisms**
- Sustainable development, gender, youth issues, special needs
- Need to reach far and fast –ICTs
- **Farmer organization and institutional development, partnerships and networks**

The new extensionist – functional skills

- **Community mobilization** (organizing producers and rural women into different types of interest/activity groups)
- **Farmer organization development** (organizing, sustaining, and federating farmer organizations to take up new extension and advisory service tasks in agriculture and linking them to new source of knowledge and services)
- **Facilitation** (facilitating discussions, enabling consensus building and joint action, accompanying multi-stakeholder processes)
- **Coaching** (guided self-reflection and expert advice for improvement)
- **Reflective learning** (organizing experience-sharing workshops and facilitating learning)

The new extensionist – functional skills

- **Mediating in conflicts** (by improving dialogue and helping to reach agreement)
- **Negotiating** (helping to reach a satisfactory compromise or agreement between individuals or groups and developing negotiating capacity among other stakeholders)
- **Brokering** (creating multi-directional relationships among the wide range of actors)



The new extensionist – functional skills

- **Networking and partnership development**
- **Advocating for changes in policies and institutions**
- **Leadership** (capacity to inspire and motivate)
- **Managing resources** (human and financial)



The new extensionist – functional skills

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Self-reflection and learning from mistakes
- Service mindedness
- Accountability
- Responsibility
- Dedication/commitment
- Working in multi-organizational and multi-sectorial teams
- Working with rural women and using gender sensitive extension approaches, youth inclusive approaches

The importance of the National AEAS system

The importance of the National AEAS system

National AEAS is critical to deal with:

- Increased population, especially urban and demand for food
- Food, income, nutrition, rural livelihoods security
- Climate change, adaptation to/ mitigation of its effects
- Diversity and increased number of extension clientele
- Aging farming population and aging extension staff
- Growing youth population
- The agri-food system, and the increased number of actors

The importance of the National AEAS system

National AEAS is critical to deal with

- Increased occurrence of emergency situations
 - Disasters, such as climate change, adverse weather such as floods, drought, food insecurity, land degradation, land fragmentation
- Need to reach and work with the “last-mile”
 - farmers, grass-roots service providers such as village agents, lead farmers, volunteer extension workers, community based facilitators, produce buyers, agro-input sellers.....

The importance of the National AEAS system

National AEAS is critical:

- To deal with increased occurrence of emergencies, such as COVID 19, Ebola, floods, lustrs, financial crises
- In keeping in sync and contributing to global, regional and continental goals and commitments, Sustainable Development Goals, the Malabo Declaration, the 2063 Africa Agenda, East African Community

AEAS central role in Agricultural sector in a country

The role of the National AEAS system

Government

- Should provide an enabling policy environment
- Invest in capacity development and build human resource
- help build quality harmonized extension curricula that integrate social and environmental concerns
- Support research and innovation in AEAS
- Establish, coordinate and monitor pluralistic extension systems that can help match the demand for and offer of services.
- invest in farmer groups' development and training infrastructure

The role of the National AEAS system

Government:

- Establish payment systems such as vouchers to help farmers pay for private extension service provision, access other services
- Mainstream and incentivize the use of last-mile service providers in extension delivery
- Integrate lead farmers into government extension services,
 - supporting lead farmers to host demo plots
 - organize in partnership with private sector other learning and business activities
- Provide long-term access to training and capacity development for extension workers and last-mile providers.

The role of the National AEAS system

Government to

- ensure quality assurance
- invest in monitoring, evaluation and learning
- avail certification systems to ensure the quality of services and responsiveness to farmers' needs.
- support wider capacity development and education efforts; and
- ensure quality control mechanisms

Implications for current delivery extension

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Implications for current delivery extension

Address – deepened concerns – food, income, climate issues

Mainstream and institutionalize the multiplied messages

Target the diverse and increased number of clientele, last mile

Multiplied actors, non-state actors, last mile actors, register

Leveraging ICTs

Deepened capacity development

Implications for current delivery extension

Its business all the way

Deepen professionalism, quality assurance, targeting the last mile

Coordinated efforts at the decentralized level and national level

Deepened networking, exchange

Deepened engagement with government, one voice esp. non state actors

Deepened government oversight, capacity building

Thank you for your audience

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References

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