COORDINATION STATUS BETWEEN PUBLIC SECTOR AND NGO:
PROBLEM OF AGRICULTURE EXTENSION

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ABSTRACT

The data was collected from three hundred randomly selected farmers of ten union councils in Kohat district during 2007. The data included all age groups of respondents that directly or indirectly involved in agricultural activities. The age groups of respondents were below 30 years (26%), 30 to 40 years (24.67%) and above 40 years (49.33%). The age 77.33%, 66.33% of the respondents were found significant with the inputs recommendations made by public sector and NGOs respectively. The age and landholding each of 73.33% of the respondents were found significant with the duplication in the advices of public sector and NGOs. The age and landholding each of 72.67% of the respondents were found significant with the help provided in different activities to the farmers by public sector and NGOs. Again age and landholding each of 76.33% of the respondents were found significant with their suggestions for further strengthening of collaboration between public sector and NGOs. If feedback provided by respondents are implemented timely and the programmes activities of both public sector and NGOs will be effective and the institutions will be able to achieve departmental objectives. Resultantly the farmers will not only extend their full support, but they will also adopt the recommendations made by the public sector and NGOs. The role of public sector and NGOs in facilitating (advice) farmers can not be ignored.

Key Words: Coordination, Status, NGO, Public Sector, Suggestions

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan population increases 2.7% approximately per annum that needs a substantial increase in agriculture productivity, if intends to achieve its goals in self-sufficiency. Improvements in strong linkages among research, extension, grower, market, civil society as well as Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are essential for an efficient and effective agricultural production system. Farmers generally follow the suggestions given by the Public and NGOs sectors. Pursuing this concern of the farming community a study was conducted in one of the major agriculture chunk of North West frontier province. Extension is a series of embedded communicative interventions that meant to develop and induce innovations which supposedly help to resolve (usually multi-sector) problematic situations (Van Dan Ban and Hawkins, 2004). The essence of agricultural extension is to facilitate interplay and nurture synergies within a total information system involving agricultural research, agricultural education and vast complex of information providing business (Neuchatel, 1999).

NWFP is also called province of villages because more than 80% of its rural population is directly or indirectly depend on agriculture (Economic survey 2007). In NWFP, the conventional agricultural extension system is playing the role of a bridge between research network and farming community. Extension is responsible for transferring and passing of scientific findings and improved technology to farmers. The extension is also responsible for feedback to research system from farming community.

The role of the extension department is important because the population is increasing day by day. Due to lack of facilities and increase in the demand of improved technology, it is estimated that extension personnel alone will not be able to fulfill these requirements. The other factors for weakening extension is the poor socio-economic condition, illiteracy, poor rural infrastructure, rapidly increasing population and conflict patterns in villages (Idrees, 1995). With passage of time, the government usually brings some structural and functional changes in the extension system according to the need of farmers and government policy. It is realized that public sector extension services need to be overhauled to meet the needs of
farmers in the 21st century. It is realized that to encourage private sector involvement in technology transfer is very much need of the day.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

District Kohat was selected for the present study due to the reason of accessibility. District Kohat is divided into two tehsils i.e. Tehsil Kohat and Tehsil Lachi. Data was collected from both tehsils.

**The Sample**

The population of the study consists of all farmers who own land in Kohat and Lachi tehsil. It is deliberately selected, because more than 70% of the farmers in the study area are engaged in agriculture, directly or indirectly. Secondly, an NGO is already working (for poverty reduction) in the district. It was felt necessary for collecting reliable, detail information about farmer problems which could be efficiently utilized for programme development in the area by the concerned public and private sector agencies.

**Sampling Procedure**

The sampling was conducted in two phases. In phase 1, all the union councils which comprise Kohat and Lachi tehsils were identified from local government records. The total number of union councils in tehsil Kohat and Lachi are 20 and 12 respectively. It was initially decided to select randomly 5 union councils from each tehsil. In case of tehsil Lachi, it was selected accordingly but in tehsil Kohat, there are 5 union councils which have complete urban setup. Therefore, it was decided that in Kohat tehsil, selection of union councils would be made purposively. Union councils were selected in primary sampling units to save time and money.

In the second phase, the author and two enumerators went to the sampled union councils for recording complete information about the list of sample units in order to prepare a sample frame. With the help of local government officials and other knowledgeable persons, the author and enumerators compiled the list of all the farmers who are currently involved in farming. It is recorded that there are 300-350 or above farmers in each union council and from each union council 30 farmers were selected randomly. Since the number of farmers does not vary widely from union council to union council, the sampling was roughly proportional to the number of farmers.

**Preparation of Questionnaire**

In view of the objective of the study, a preliminary interview schedule was prepared for the collection of the data. A panel of three experts in the discipline of agricultural extension tested the instrument for its face validity. A number of changes were suggested by the experts pertaining to format of interview schedule and questions. All the suggestions made by the experts were incorporated accordingly. Then the instrument was tested for its content validity by a panel of 5 experts. The questionnaire was translated into the local language, Pushto and back translated into English by two different experts. The questionnaire was first tested on ten farmers and then finalized and pre-tested on 20 farmers who were not included in the sample but live in the research area.

**Data Collection and Data Analysis/Processing**

The interview of the farmers started in the first week of June 2007. Besides asking written questions, farmers’ opinion, suggestion and experiences were also recorded. Logically developed tables were made after data analysis by using statistical software (SPSS). The data was reported in terms of frequencies and percentages. A chi-square test was used to test the statistical significance of the association between two attributes (variables). For convenience, the chi-square test is defined as:

\[
\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{r} \sum_{j=1}^{c} \frac{(O_{ij} - e_{ij})^2}{e_{ij}}
\]

That under null hypothesis (H_0) follows a \(\chi^2\)-distribution with (r-1) (c-1) degrees of freedom. In equation (1), \(O_{ij}\) and \(e_{ij}\) are the observed and expected frequencies of cell in \(i^{th}\) row and \(j^{th}\) column, respectively. It is important to mention that under the null hypothesis for each pair of the tested attributes, it
was assumed that there is no significant association between the two variables i.e. the two variables are independent.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table I shows the opinion of the farmers about duplication in the advices of public sector and NGO. About 73.33% (220) farmers responded that NGO and public sector overlaps the suggestions for different activities. Resultantly, affects the creditability of both the institutions and create confusion among the farming community about application of recommendation. This also shows the lack of coordination among these two institutions or organization. The 26.67% farmers were in the opinion that we had never felt any duplication in the suggestion of both the institutions.

It is observed that difference in suggestions for the solution of the same problem by different institution is itself a serious problem. It is concluded that one department should keep in mind the presence of other institution and their advices about the problem in hand. In this way credibility will be more and farmers will welcome their recommendations.

Table I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duplication in advices</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Sector</td>
<td>85 (38.64%)</td>
<td>30 (37.50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>135 (61.36%)</td>
<td>50 (62.50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>220 (73.33%)</td>
<td>80 (26.67%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source = Survey; Chi-square = 0.0020, p-value = 0.9643

Suggestion Regarding Strengthening of Collaboration between Public Sector and NGO

Extension is a series of embedded communicative intervention that mean to develop or induce innovations which are suppose to help in resolving (usually multi sector) the problematic situations (Van Dan Ban and Hawkins, 2004). Data in Table II shows the distribution of respondents on the basis of their suggestions for further strengthening collaboration between public sector and NGO. The farmers' suggestions provide feed back to the public sector and NGO. It will highlight the weaknesses in the system. In this regard, 62.67% farmers suggested, they should support activity of each other for success of programme. The 44% of the farmers suggested that before launching of any programme, different agencies i.e. public sector and NGO should consult each other for better implementation of the programme and to avoid different recommendations for the same activity. About 72.67% farmers suggested that such agencies should invite the officials of each other for participation in public programme. The presence of the official's of both the agencies encouraging the question, and give positive suggestions for making the programme more successful. They can collectively answer the questions of the farmers. The majority of the farmers (85.33%) are in the opinion that presently there is difference in the recommendations/ suggestion in the activities of public sector and NGO. In future, they should avoid the difference in advices. It produces confusion among farming community.

Table II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggestions</th>
<th>Number of respondents</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting activity of each other</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>62.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation with each other</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitation of each other in public programme</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>72.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoid duplication in activities</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>85.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source = Survey

Ranking of Advice given by Public Extension Services and NGOs

Farmers were greatly concerned with the advice given by the public and NGOs sector. About 11.67% ranked public extension services as excellent, while 16.67% termed NGOs services as excellent. The 43.33% and 45% ranked public extension services as good and average respectively. The 56.67% and 26.67% termed NGOs services good and average, respectively. It suggests that the role in facilitating (advice) of public sector and NGOs can not be ignored. There is a significant relationship between public sector and NGOs advices given to farmers.
Table III  Ranking of advice given by public sector and NGOs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking of Advice</th>
<th>Public sector</th>
<th>NGOs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>35(11.67%)</td>
<td>50(16.67%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>130(43.33%)</td>
<td>170(56.67%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>135(45.00%)</td>
<td>80(26.67%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source = Survey; Chi-square = 99.69, p-value = 0.000

Coordination between Public Sector and NGOs in the Area

When the farmer’s responses were inquired about the coordination level between two institutions/agencies, small, medium, and large farmers were interviewed on the issue. Regarding the coordination about 27.67% called it to some extent, out of these 36.67% were small farmers, 16% were medium while 20% were big farmers. The 5.67% were of the view that they have observed high coordination including 3.23% were small farmers, 4% were medium and 10% were big farmers. While, majority (66.67%) stated that they have no coordination. Out of these 60% were small farmers, 80% were medium and 70% were big farmers. As the Chi-square analysis showed that there is a significant association between the farmers land holding and coordination between public sector and NGOs.

Table IV  Coordination between public sector and NGOs in the area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farmers</th>
<th>Highly coordinated</th>
<th>To some extent</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>5 (3.23%)</td>
<td>55 (36.67%)</td>
<td>90 (60.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>2 (4.00%)</td>
<td>8 (16.00%)</td>
<td>40 (80.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big</td>
<td>10 (10.00%)</td>
<td>20 (20.00%)</td>
<td>70 (70.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17(5.67%)</td>
<td>83 (27.67%)</td>
<td>200 (66.67%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source = Survey; Chi-square = 16.48, p-value = 0.0024

Benefit's of Coordination amongst Public Extension Departments and NGOs

A large majority of the farmers were of the view that a high coordination between both organizations is of great benefit to the farmers. About 91.1% farmers supported strong coordination in the activities of these agencies. The 52.33% farmers were in the opinion of medium coordination, the 20% stated low level of coordination. At the same time 80% farmers opposed any type of coordination between public sector and NGOs. As the Chi-square analysis showed that there is a significant coordination between public sector and NGOs at each level. Which is a great benefited to farming community and increase the reputation of both the institutions.

Table V  Benefit's of coordination amongst public service and NGOs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coordination level</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High coordination</td>
<td>273(91.00%)</td>
<td>27(9.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium coordination</td>
<td>157(52.33%)</td>
<td>143(47.67%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low/No</td>
<td>60(20.00%)</td>
<td>240(80.00%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source = Survey; Chi-square = 77.19, p-value = 0.000

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It was observed that differences in recommendations by public and NGOs sectors about the same problem, is a very serious issue. It is concluded that both public and NGOs sectors while formulating their activities should keep in mind the presence of other department and their advices about the problem of the farming community. Thus it will increase the credibility of these institutions and the farmers will welcome the recommendations made by any one of the agency. Resultantly the majority of the farmers will be benefited from the services rendered by these organizations and ultimately agriculture will develop which will ensure high yields and more farm income. Further farmers of the study area were of the view that a high coordination between the organizations is of great benefit to farmers. Almost 91.1% farmers supported a strong coordination in the activities of public and NGOs sectors. In the light of the conclusion drawn, it is recommended that private extension services be provided to farmers by involving NGOs in the process of transfer of technology. It is further recommended that both public sector and NGO should support the activities of each other by participating in each other programmes.
REFERENCES


