

Technology Adoption and Training. What is the real problem out there?

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Introduction

- Assumptions (dangerous but necessary)
- Perceived vs real problem
- Lack of adoption? Concern or not.
- Degrees of adoption
 - Total, partial or occasional.
- Selective adoption
 - Source and trust
 - Restrictive factors



Problem statement

- “ Farmers are not readily adopting technology and research outcomes as a means of bettering production, and this is perceived to be the role of Extension Services”



In the Beginning

- First modern Extension 1845
- Necessary conditions for transfer
 - information available
 - assembled
 - deposited into systems
 - retrievable, able to query
- Books on farming
- Mid 1800's science of extension formalised



Where in the world

- Pay for services
- Commodity based
- Government responsibility
- Extension services not adequately provided
- Sustainable development (carbon footprint)
- SA Isolated
- Agriculture a complex system



Public vs Private

- Level of service provision
- Staff turnover
- Ongoing transitional climate
- Accountability
- Retard development reduce confidence
- History of delivery?
- Socio- economic, technical OR political



Research adoption

- Non adoption not unique
- Research pressure to secure funds
- No transfer element in project design
- Knowledge retention (a power tool)
- System reformation lacking
- Disproportionate investment
- Social responsibility vs agricultural
- Dualism of services



Research adoption cont.....

- Beneficiary involvement?
- Researcher perceptions
- Participatory Investigative Approach (PIA)



Training

- What is training?
- Value chain connection understanding
- Developing social capital
- Well trained = increased capacity to adopt
- “Know how” and “Know why”
- Operational and conceptual
- Pre-service and in-service



Training cont.....

- Theory practice interaction
- Training is good for people and organisations
- Extension
 - Pre service good
 - In service poor
- Breadth and Depth of knowledge
- Absorptive capacity



Discussions

- Governments role
- Provincial revitalisation programmes
- Impact of land reform
- Poorly equipped 1st generation farmers
- Aptitude
- Extension: are not able to engage in complex dynamics
- Back to basics



Not sure we have answered the
question.

SO WHAT IS THE REAL PROBLEM
OUT THERE?

Thank You

