



Producer Organisations in Rural Advisory Services: Evidence and Experiences

Position Paper

Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services

February 2015



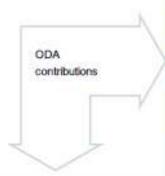
Producer Organisations in Rural Advisory Services

Based on the GFRAS Position Paper, February 2015

> Peter Schmidt SFRAS meeting 30.3.2016 Zürich

Hanoi Statement





Requirements for effective demand

- Increased capacities of agricultural producers to effectively articulate their demand for RAS and to provide feedback
- Strengthened voice of agricultural producers and local leadership to enhance social equity of RAS and policy implementation
- Interventions in the public interest are financed from public finances, interventions in the private interest from private finances
- Increased consumers' demand for social and ecological products

Requirements for conducive policies

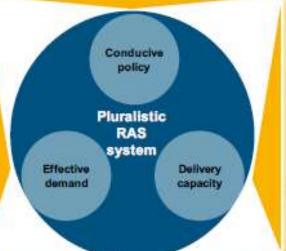
Conducive and inclusive governance for a balanced power relationship between RAS stakeholders

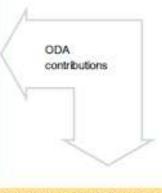
Capacities of RAS providers

- to contribute to policy making processes
- to strengthen voice of farmers
- to put existing policies into action

Government is responsible

- to facilitate a transparent and inclusive policy process with adequate participation of farmers, their organisations, and RAS providers
- to provide a solid frame for private investment in RAS
- to put in place coherent policies to mitigate ecological and social risks





Requirements for delivery capacity

- Capacity development of individual, organisational, policy and advocacy, networking capacities of RAS providers
- Availability of continuous capacity development -> institutionalisation
- Strengthened agricultural innovation system with focus on
 - networks of RAS stakeholders
- intermediation between knowledge and innovation bearers
- indigenous knowledge

Reach scale through:

- increased collaboration between
 - public and private sector
 - private sector and civil society
- use of modern communication, ICT

Reaching large populations with RAS in a poverty oriented, ecological, and sustainable way

Producer Organisations



What are producer organisations?

Producer organisations are voluntary membership organisations of agricultural producers. They can be organised and structured as associations, societies, cooperatives, farmers' groups, unions, federations, or even firms. They exist to promote the interests of farmers and to work for their economic and social benefit. Most producer organisations provide services that directly or indirectly support agricultural production.

> Source: Adapted from Rondot and Collion 2001, Bijman and Wollni 2008

Source: http://www.g-fras.org/en/activities/producer-organisations-in-ras.html

Characteristics of Producer Organisations



Types of Producer Organisations

- 1. Market-oriented
- 2. Input-oriented
- 3. Extension-oriented
- 4. Policy and advocacy

Producer organisations typically are a mixture of the above and evolve in the course of time.

(GFRAS 2015, p.6)

Successful Producer Organisations

- Have a purpose that benefits its members
- Have a voluntary membership
- Have a strong leadership
- Follow the good governance principles (effective services, equity & inclusiveness, agreed regulations, participation, transparency, accountability)

(own experience, but in line with GFRAS 2015, p. 19)



Pictures: Broom-grass Producer Group in Southern Bhutan; Rural Livelihood Project, HELVETAS

Effective Demand



Functions of Producer Organisations to foster effective demand

- 1. Identifying individual needs
- 2. Working with producers in groups to exchange and prioritise ideas
- 3. Formulating and articulating demands
- 4. Negotiating about rural advisory services
- 5. Monitoring and evaluating services once they are delivered (GFRAS 2015, p.9)



Challenges

- Capacities
- Tools
- Strong social capital (lack of effective representation)
- Accountability mechanisms (GFRAS 2015, p.15)

Delivery Capacity



Functions of Producer Organisations to foster delivery services

- 1. Knowledge services
- 2. Economic advisory services
- 3. Facilitating the supply of input services (GFRAS 2015, p.14)



Strengths

- Flexibility to engage at different stages of value chains
- Facilitation of peer learning
- Accountability to members

Challenges

• Lived accountability (GFRAS 2015, p.15)

Producer Organisations' contributions to RAS

- Building partnerships and accessing resources
- Fostering social inclusion
- Contributing knowledge and practice for sustainable environmental practices

(GFRAS 2015, p. 20-24)





Thank you!

